THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

AUGUST 2016
ISSUE 232

NIKOLAI FOSTER
WE TALK TO LEICESTER THEATRE LEGEND ABOUT HIS NEW PLAY ADAPTATION

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT SEXUAL HEALTH NASTIES ARE HIDING DOWN THERE?

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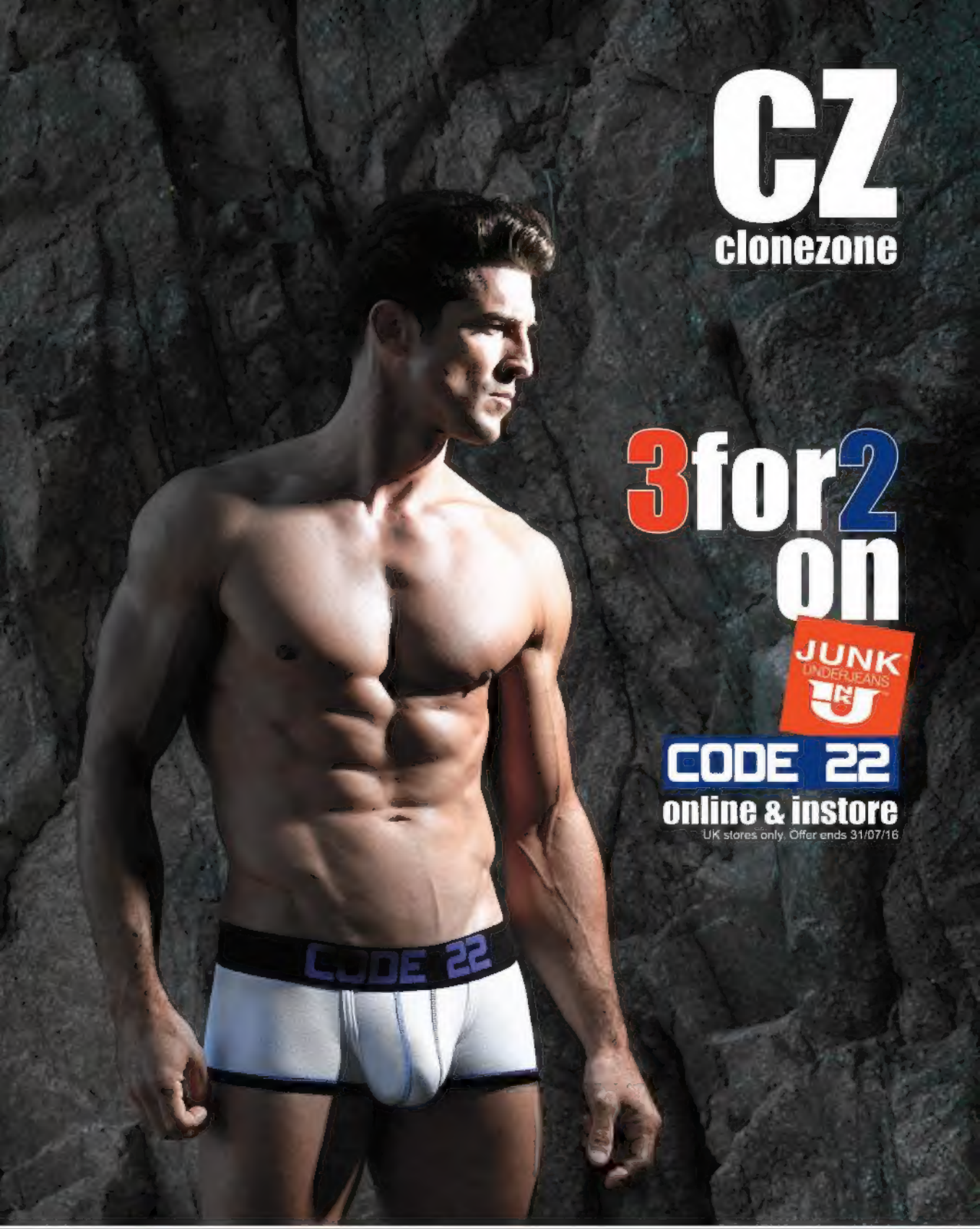

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NIKOLAI FOSTER

Heather Kincaid talks to Leicester Curve's Artistic Director about his 'fresh and contemporary' spin on Oscar Wilde's classic comedy

In the preface to The Picture Of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde writes, "It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors." However astute the observation may have been, it's unlikely that Wilde would ever have envisaged its literal realisation in a production of a play of his own. Led by Curve Leicester's Artistic Director, Nikolai Foster, in co-production with Birmingham REP, a bold new staging of The Importance Of Being Earnest uses a dazzling mirrored set to prompt reflection on the play's complex themes.

"One of the very first productions I assisted on when I was at drama school was The Importance Of Being Earnest." explains Foster. "It was very traditional, with nice sets and posh frocks, and I just remember dreaming about what I'd do with the play if I was ever lucky enough to direct it. What we've come up with is something quite conceptual and expressionistic, which notionally takes place in the 1800s, but is set in this environment which is basically a world of mirrors."

Developed by Isla Shaw, the production's arresting design taps into ideas around identity, deception and the disconnect between appearance and reality which are not only central to this play, but recur time and again in Wilde's work. Though Wilde was writing over a century ago, these concepts remain just as relevant in today's world of social media and carefully curated online profiles.

"It's a very witty, intelligent play that uses language in quite an exciting, subversive way. Wilde writes a lot about the hypocrisy and double standards of the times he lived in - Lady Bracknell, for example, wasn't born into this society, but has married into it and sort of clawed her way to the top. So I started thinking about that and about mirrors, and the question of whether or not, when you look in a mirror, you actually see a true reflection of yourself."

As Algernon would have it, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple," and "To be natural is such a very difficult pose to keep up." Foster hopes that this high-concept design will offer something "truthful to the period, but with a contemporary twist." For his initial inspiration, he turned to the world of high fashion - a world bubbling over with the kinds of big ideas, exclusivity, excess and obsession with appearances that Wilde himself would doubtless have found familiar.

"Just by accident, about a year ago, I found this image of a fashion shoot in New York on

Twitter. It's basically just a box of mirrors with a table and a door at the back, and clever lighting. Then we found these wonderful photographs of fashion now - these sort of country frocks and Dolce and Gabbana suits that look like they could absolutely be from Gwendolen's day."

Composed by Curve Associate Artist Dougal Irvine, the score will similarly straddle past and present to produce something fresh and dynamic, with what Foster describes as a very "Curve feel".

"Dougal and I talked about a composer called Steve Reich who creates these kind of electropop-synth-classical compositions, and that's the sort of sound we're starting with. It might be that the play starts with a scene in a nightclub where the lads have been the night before and so we have something very aggressively 'now' to get us into the world of the play, and then we'll have more of a contemporary-classical crossover sound to link scenes together and underscore it all. But it will all be tastefully employed to support what we're trying to do tonally - we don't want it to be a barrage of contemporary nonsense for the sake of it."

For Foster, this is crucial: Wilde's writing speaks for itself, and there's no intention of updating or interfering with the text as written.

"We're not messing with genius. People who know and love the play are going to get a very fine reading of it. Hopefully it's the best of both worlds: I think young people coming to see it for the first time will love the anarchy of these young people telling porkies and creating alter-egos to escape their overbearing parents and guardians, and people who are a bit older and know the play will get to see something very glamorous and unlike any production they've ever seen before."

Alongside major, award-winning talent like Cathy Tyson (Mona Lisa, The Serpent And The Rainbow, Priest, Band Of Gold), the cast will also include local actor Sharan Phull, who has previously performed with the Curve Community Company.

"At the launch of my very first season, Sharan was an usher at the theatre. She'd just come back from drama school in London after having been in Rent and other community shows here. I saw her in Bend It Like Beckham when she was on for the lead role which she'd been understudying, and consequently we auditioned her for Cecily and she was amazing. She absolutely captured the sort of innocence and exuberance of the character."

In his capacity as Artistic Director, Foster is passionate about nurturing links with the local community, and since taking over from Paul Kerryson in January last year, he has actively sought to bring new people into the theatre, both onto the stage and into the auditorium. So far, his development work has been hugely successful, with several community performers going on to be cast in professional productions at Curve and elsewhere.

> *"It's a very witty and intelligent play that uses language in quite an exciting, subversive way"*

"Mark Peachy, who played the title role in our Community Company production of Richard III last year went on to be in A Streetcar Named Desire here. We also offered him a part in Breakfast At Tiffany's but he couldn't do it because he'll be in Birmingham doing Mamma Mia! Nick Read, whose stage name is Nicholas Alexander, has been involved with the young company and then was in A Streetcar Named Desire, and he's just got a place at drama school from September. But it goes both ways: at the moment we're rehearsing Bugsy Malone, and one of the kids in that played one of the Adrian Moles, so he's been in a professional production and has now come back to be in a community production. I love that crossover. There's no barrier between professional and amateur here - it's all about genuinely engaging, and there are so many ways that people do that here, whether it's being part of a company or just coming in, putting on some music and practising your breakdancing in the foyer."

From a literary classic to a popular musical, Foster goes from The Importance Of Being Earnest to directing Grease later in the year. Thanks to some last-minute rescheduling, he'll also be working on a National Youth Music Theatre production of Spring Awakening while Earnest is still in rehearsals.

"I think we really pride ourselves on having something for everybody here at Curve, and as an artist, I do feel like it's important to have that variety. It keeps you on your toes. One of the things I was worried about when I came to work in this building was that I'd get complacent without the rough and tumble of moving around as a freelancer, but we're always so busy and working so hard to challenge ourselves here that it's never going to become static.

"There are times when you miss the privacy and the chance to have a break. I have just said to myself, you're constantly going to be tired and a bit stressed now because there's always something to worry about - but in a good way. Even after you've had a press night, you've got other things to work on, whether it's your learning department or a new communications strategy or looking at the Arts Council grant. It's a really full-on, full-time job, but I love it."

The Importance Of Being Earnest shows at Birmingham REP from Fri 9 to Sat 24 September and at Curve Leicester from Thurs 6 October to Sat 5 November.

Andrew Horton

HIV Prevention Lead
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust

Born: Chester
Star sign: Sagittarius
Age: 23 (+10)

About Andrew

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small town called Ellesmere Port. Now probably on the map for Cheshire Oaks and the Vauxhall Corsa! A small claim to town fame!

Single or attached?

Single.

What makes you happy?

Gosh, loads. Chocolate, cheating on the diet, surviving a Guerrilla class, spending time with my niece, working a shift at Galaxy, which is our 14-to-18-year-old youth group that runs every Saturday 12 till 4pm from the Piccadilly Centre in Stoke-on-Trent. It's a fantastic group; I'm worn out by the end but the attendees make me giggle so much!

What makes you sad?

Being on a diet - I'm pants on a diet! In all seriousness, though, seeing homeless people really upsets me. I'm lucky that I have a fantastic family and support network with friends, so to see someone struggling without support makes me really sad. I'm forever buying coffee and lunch for people, trying to get them somewhere warm to sleep for the night and get them into support services.

What makes you angry?

Bullies, Homophobia. Any type of injustice. I'm a huge supporter of an underdog and will always make sure that I push forward to support anyone who faces any kind of discrimination. We talk about homophobia in schools as part of our Sex & Relationships Education sessions, and I work really hard to make sure that young people celebrate each other and their differences, instead of tearing each other down.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My inability to stick to a diet. That chocolate (triple layer) fudge cake is just too good!

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

Once, I was trying to get into some skinny jeans in a changing room (I have spinners thighs - it was never going to happen) and was jumping up and down to get them on. I slipped, tried to stabilise myself, grabbed the curtain and fell onto the shop floor, pulling the curtain off and the rail down. It was quite a busy, well-known store too. There was literally nothing I could do other than try to cover the total embarrassment with laughing as much as I could. I wanted to run out with the jeans halfway up and emigrate. The sales assistant got my things together and took me to the staff toilets to get changed, then let me leave out the back door, for which I will forever be grateful.

Coming Out

When did you come out?

I actually never really did. I was on a night out with my best friend Katey and we decided to go to a student union night to re-live our university days. As we were on the dancefloor, she leaned in and said, "You know that we know and don't care. If you want to talk about it ever, we can - if not, then that's cool too." And that was that. I was really lucky that I had the same best friend from high school who I went to Staffordshire University with and who is still my greatest friend now. It's crazy to think how silent I was about it to begin with, considering that I now deliver LGBT training to 100 people at a time using my own experiences to highlight points within the training. I don't think I would be doing that if not for Katey.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

I loved school, and being gay wasn't really an issue. I wasn't confident in my sexuality as a teenager but I was very confident in myself and very self-assured. A few people would call me gay or make comments, but as a 'plastic scouse' I was always very quick with a comeback. School was a really happy time for me. I would say all my friends knew and might have talked about it amongst themselves, but it was never mentioned to me. I'm still really close to many of my high school friends, which I love.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?

I never really spoke about it. My friend Katey broached it, as mentioned, but that was it really. I would say I was one of the lucky ones.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

I do visits to schools and homes at the request of parents, and the first thing I do is thank the young person for meeting me. I tell them to celebrate who they are, to come to Galaxy and meet the greatest LGBTQ young people you could ever possibly meet, and have a great time with us. It's really important for me to help build a strong sense of self within young people. I try to explain to them that we feel love within our heart, and how can anything we feel in our hearts ever be wrong or make us sad? Be yourself, be unabashed and be proud of who you are. This part of my job gives me a great deal of self-worth, and even talking about it in a recent interview made me cry.

Your Career

What do you do for a living?

I'm the HIV Prevention Lead for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust.

How long have you done this for?

I started seven years ago as an LGBT Project Worker within Sexual Health and felt like I'd won the lottery. I got paid to work within the scene and support the community to have greater access to sexual health and other support services. I was lucky to have a very supportive manager who was open to any crazy idea I may have had. Over the years, there are many things that I'm proud of, from creating The Big Gay Camp Trip with my co-worker, Zoe Holdcroft, to curating an art exhibition, working with local artists and looking at people's misconceptions of HIV.

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

I was desperate to be in theatre. My babysitter got me tickets to see her as Aslan in The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe when I was about six. I can remember it vividly even now at the young age of 23 (+10). I just remember thinking, "Wow how magical and amazing is this!" I wanted to do it. Whilst at high school I had auditions for EastEnders. My dad wasn't too keen, worried it wasn't a steady income. So, convinced I was going to get it, I made a deal that if I didn't get it I would go to university. I didn't get it but I think everything worked out as it should have, as I love my job.

We've all got a dream job. What's yours?

I would like to stay in the area I'm in because it's a great fit for me, but I would love to develop more resources for teachers within schools and toolkits to support teachers and even parents in supporting LGBT young people. If I could be part of achieving greater visibility and support for our trans youth in any way, then that would make me really happy.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I never really did the scene until I got my job and started working on it. I was always quite scared! I'm very lucky in Stoke that on the local scene there's a sense of family. It was brilliant, especially in my 20s. Our scene has got smaller but we still have a strong venue that works hard to keep the gay scene alive, which I love. Marcia and Destiny and the Gossip team keep our scene alive.

What's been your fondest memory of the scene?

Ooh, so many! My friend Mark, who I don't see as much as I would like to anymore, once did what we named 'the crab dance'. Not sure where it came from or why we did it, but I just remember laughing so hard I thought I was going to pee! Many of my memories are associated with being with my friends and literally just laughing at each other.

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the scene?

Divina De Campo, of course. I remember meeting her for the first time and was in awe of her talent and creativity. Divina worked hard to give more to the local community and I admire that. Now to be found at KIKI in Manchester, and I was so proud and excited to also see her on The Voice. Definitely a name everyone will know soon because of her drive, ambition and bloody amazing talent!

Who's your favourite person on the scene?

Can I say myself?!... Seriously, though, I wouldn't name just one person; it wouldn't be fair. There are so many people who're part of the scene and who make it what it is. I give love to each of them. They all work for the LGBT community and that's a great thing.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

I enjoy its creativity. If there's a themed party or Halloween, you won't see better costumes or makeup anywhere else.

What have you noticed about the way the scene has changed over the years?

Stoke-on-Trent's for sure got smaller. I think with easy access from Stoke to Birmingham and Manchester, younger people go all over the place nowadays. I think for my generation and older there was still the taboo, so to have somewhere local you could feel safe and knew the team and the security staff was important. It still is to me. Times are changing and the community is too. Larger scenes scare me, though, so I'll stick with Gossip, thank you!

How would you change the gay scene?

I wouldn't change it. I'd just ask more people to support it within their local areas.

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

Anywhere with food and I'm happy. If it's an 'all you can eat' I'm in heaven! Now I'm older, it's more about the food and drinks with friends for me, but I do love going to Gossip and dancing to cheesy pop.

What do you do to relax?

I read lots and try to make time to read something every day, whether it's a magazine or a book. I recently purchased 12 books on Amazon to work through. I'm completely 'old school' and not a fan of e-readers at all. I enjoy the whole experience of a book.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I feel no shame in saying I'm the biggest fan of the Real Housewives franchise. I'm addicted to New York, Beverly Hills, Atlanta and OC. Sorry not sorry!

What was the last album or track you bought?

I was so happy to see that All Saints are trying a comeback again, so I bought their song, One Strike. I was a superfan back in the day! Love you, girls!

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

I spend far too much time on Facebook, QuidCo and ASOS. It's crazy! I love and hate social media in equal measures. I love that I get to see all the pictures of my friends and niece and all the great 'life' moments, but sometimes I hate how much time I lose looking down at my phone and not up at the world.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

Any holiday, I love them all! Give me a city to explore, brilliant. Give me a beach to lie on and tan and I'm going to be happy! I love to ski, and New York is my complete fave place on the planet.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Cate Blanchett.

What's your favourite book?

Sleepers by Lorenzo Carcaterra.

Half empty or half full?

Half full.

What's your favourite food?

All food. I don't discriminate. Well, apart from fish or egg - gross!

And how about your favourite drink?

A mocha with an extra shot with soy, extra hot.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Both.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Kate Winslet. I'm a superfan.

RuPaul's Drag Race star to bring brand new show to Birmingham

Bianca Del Rio, the season-six winner of hit US drag talent show Ru Paul's Drag Race, has announced that she's bringing her new stand-up show, Not Today Satan, to the UK as part of a world tour.

The popular drag queen is a hilariously hateful comic who's known for her foul mouth and unapologetic humour. Indeed, the New York Times labelled her 'the Joan Rivers of the drag world' following her sold-out world comedy tour and first stand-up special, Rolodex Of Hate.

Not Today Satan picks up right where her previous endeavour left off. It chronicles her adventures since winning RuPaul's Drag Race, the experience of becoming 'gay famous,' her move to Los Angeles and the inherent challenges of dating and making a living as a man in a dress.

Commenting on the news, Bianca said: "When I'm not busy volunteering at the soup kitchen or knitting socks for orphans, one of my favourite pastimes is gathering the cold, huddled masses into a nice warm room, giving them shelter if only for an hour, and sharing valuable life advice from a hate guru!"

The show takes place at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday 6 February. Tickets are on sale now.

Shrewsbury movie the highlight at Shropshire gay film festival

Shrewsbury's hugely popular Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival is this autumn returning to the market town for an 11th year.

Organisers are confident that the event's 2016 line-up of gay cinema is the best yet. Highlight of the festival is the world premiere of Wherever You Are, a short film shot in Shrewsbury.

This year's event also features an appearance by singer-songwriter Joe Stevens. Joe will be taking part in a Q&A session at the end of the screening of trans-gender coming-of-age movie Real Boy, in which he features.

The Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival takes place at Shrewsbury's Old Market Hall cinema from Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October.

For more information, visit rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk

Birmingham's Pink Picnic set to make a welcome return

Birmingham's annual Pink Picnic returns to the city next month.

The picnic takes place at Kings Heath Park on Sunday 11 September. Organisers are keen to make it clear that everyone's welcome to attend - so whether you're single, married, have kids or dogs, feel free to pop along and soak up the atmosphere.

And don't forget to pack your hamper with the odd cheeky treat - if you can't enjoy the guilty pleasure of a mini pork pie or four during an early-autumn picnic with friends, then when can you?

For more information, visit www.blgbt.org or call 0121 643 0821.

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Pet Shop Boys announce new UK tour

Gay favourites Pet Shop Boys will return to the UK with their Super Tour in February next year.

The tour will see the duo perform songs from acclaimed new album Super, as well as classic PSB hits and album tracks from the past 30 years.

The production is based on the Royal Opera House shows staged by designer Es Devlin and choreographer Lynne Page.

Pet Shop Boys play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Friday 24 February.

Tickets are on sale now.

Three Midlands councils named in LGBT charity's top 10 for tackling homophobic bullying in schools

LGBT charity Stonewall has announced that Leicestershire County Council, Birmingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council are among the best local authorities in Britain for helping to tackle homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in schools and supporting young LGBT people in the local community.

The news arrived as Stonewall published its annual Education Equality Index, announcing the top 10 local authorities in the country, with Leicestershire County Council coming sixth, Birmingham City Council eighth and Nottinghamshire County Council 10th.

The Index is a comprehensive benchmarking exercise for local authorities from across the country, showcasing how well they're celebrating difference and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools.

This year's Index has been the most competitive to date, with 50 local authorities from England, Scotland and Wales taking part - the highest number of participants ever.

Walsall gay community raises thousands for LGBT causes

Walsall's gay community has raised thousands of pounds for two LGBT causes at two very different events.

The first event saw hundreds of people coming together on Saturday 18 June for a candlelit vigil in memory of the 49 lives lost in the Orlando shootings. The event, which was organised by Walsall Pride, Walsall Council and the local LGBT community, was staged outside the town's New Art Gallery.

More than 200 people attended a short service of prayers and speeches from local clergy and Walsall Pride chairman Les Hurst. There were also words of condolence from Lion Bar & Club manager Zac Humpage.

The gathering of people then stood silent for two minutes to pay respect to the victims. This was followed by a couple of songs from local cabaret artist Champagne Shirley and the release of 49 balloons.

As part of the show of solidarity, local gay venues The Lion Bar & Club and The Red Lion raised £1,228, which has been donated to the Pulse Nightclub GoFundMe account supporting the families and victims of the tragedy.

The community came back together on Friday 1 July for the annual Walsall Pride Ball. The evening was hailed a great success and comprised a three-course meal, cabaret, the Proud Awards and a charity raffle. An after-party was then held at The Lion Bar & Club.

The event raised an impressive £1,400, which will go towards the Walsall Pride festival on Saturday 27 August.

Gay couples sought for new home-buying TV show

Gay couples struggling to agree on their perfect home are being offered a helping hand by a new television series.

American property expert Max Blake is coming to the UK and the Midlands to offer assistance to British couples in serious need of some home-buying help - and he'll be providing them with £15,000 towards their deposit too.

If you're interested in taking part in the new TV show, you can access an application form by emailing casting@helpusbuy.co.uk

Nick Hynan
Photography

Birmingham-based photographer Nick Hynan has worked with the LGBT community for many years. He brings a unique visual style and insight to his work with individuals and organisations across the region.

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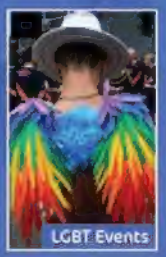

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Birmingham LGBT charity seeking volunteers

Following a successful Volunteer Induction Evening back in June, Birmingham LGBT is now on the lookout for even more volunteers.

The induction evening provided a chance for people interested in volunteering to get involved with the centre's work and to hear more about what's on offer

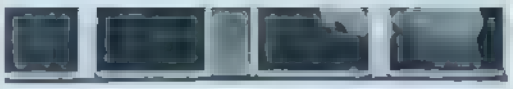
If you're interested in volunteering, the charity would like to hear from you

As Birmingham LGBT moves to a seven-day-a-week, 12-hours-a-day service, it's looking for more volunteers to offer their time to support the activities and services available at the centre

People volunteer for a variety of reasons, whether it's to take active citizenship in the LGBT community, create new networks or develop new skills.

Birmingham LGBT has many volunteer opportunities available. If you re interested in finding out more about volunteering, contact joelkom@blgbt.org for more information.

LGBT women's sexual health and wellbeing information evening coming to Birmingham



An LGBT women's sexual health & wellbeing information evening takes place at the Birmingham LGBT Centre on Thursday 11 August at 6.30pm.

Led by Andrea Willinger, Birmingham LGBT's Sexual Health Outreach Worker for Lesbian & Bisexual Women, the event includes a talk on sexual health. The talk focuses on issues specific to lesbian and bisexual women, including what to be aware of, what to know and how to use sexual health services. It also offers participants the chance to ask any questions they might've felt uncomfortable about asking elsewhere. Nikki Stewart, Senior Sister from Whittle Street Clinic, will be providing the answers, as well as offering friendly, informative and non-judgmental advice.

For more information, contact andreawillinger@blgbt.org or visit www.blgbt.org

Leicester's Trade sexual health organisation on the lookout for Pride 2016 volunteers

Leicester-based sexual health charity Trade is looking for volunteers to help out at Leicester Pride on Saturday 3 September.

Trade Sexual Health has a whole host of ways for people to get involved, regardless of their experience or the time they've got available.

Trade will provide all relevant training. The organisation is also looking for volunteers to help out in the lead up to Pride as well as on the day itself.

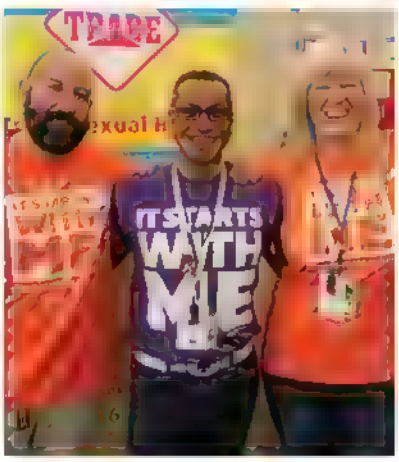
A 2015 volunteer named Ken, who helped out at Trade's Pride Health & Wellbeing Marquee in Victoria Park, said:

"Over the last year or so, I've done some volunteering work with Trade, helping out in the preparations for Pride and then, on the day, helping to run the safe-sex stand demonstrating the proper use of condoms. I do it because Trade is such a great resource and supports so many people around Leicester.

"A bonus to helping has been the chance to meet and get to know the team and some of the other volunteers, who are a friendly and supportive group.

"My single enduring memory of volunteering with Trade is working on the safe-sex stand at Pride. I very soon learned to forget any shyness and embarrassment as I discussed the best ways to use a condom. It was a really fun day and was hopefully of help to the many people who visited the stand."

If you would like to volunteer, send Trade an email at info@tradesexualhealth.com

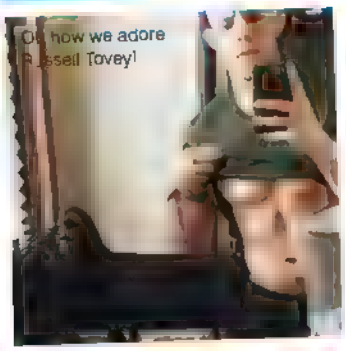


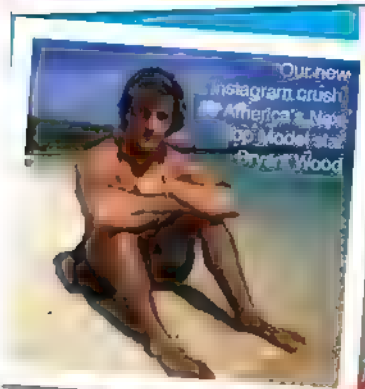
THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

CELEB SNAPS! OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...





Watch how tne public reacts to this HOMOPHOBIC ABUSE social experiment...

We've probably all witnessed some form of homophobia in our lives. Now young Facebook videomaker Julius Dean has recorded a social experiment to see how the public reacts to homophobia in 2016.

The video, which has so far amassed a staggering 17,500,000 views, catalogues the reactions of the public whilst on the tube when Julius dishes out abuse to his two mates, who are an 'undercover' gay couple. Fair play to the public - most of them pipe up and say something, ensuring our faith in humanity remains intact. Watch it here bit.ly/29SCKx7

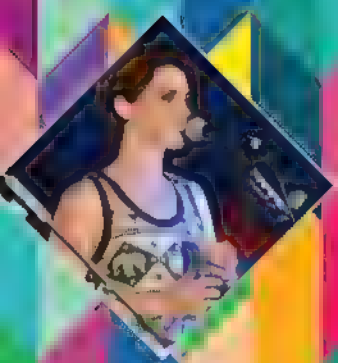
Hot men that'll make you see POKÉMON GO in a new light

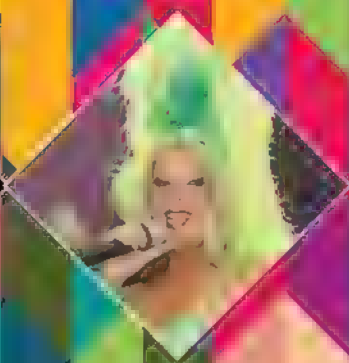
With the recent success of augmented-reality smartphone game Pokémon Go, our friends over at Gay Star News have dressed up 13 hot guys in Pokémon-inspired cosplay costumes.

From Magikarp to Pikachu and Chansey to Jolteon, Flareon and Vaporeon, check them out here bit.ly/2azU0Jq

SUMMER OF PRIDE

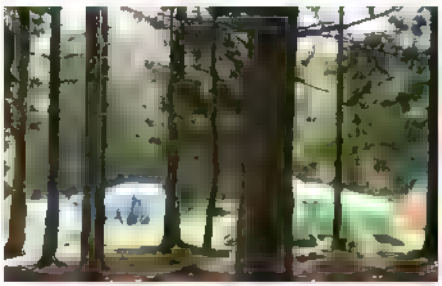
10 PAGE GUIDE TO LGBT EVENTS

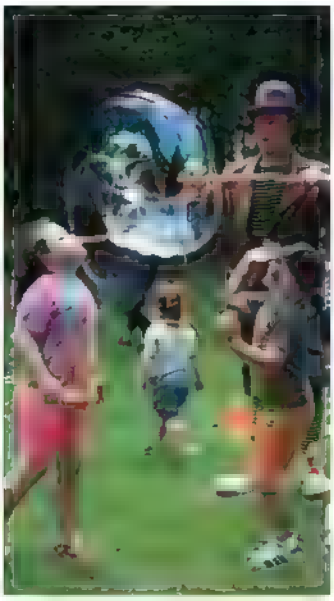




LGBT families come together for FAMILY PRIDE

Friday 5 - Monday 8 August
Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek
familyprideuk.co.uk





This month sees the return of Family Pride, the UK's most popular LGBT family weekend.

Spread across four days and three nights, Family Pride brings together families from far and wide, with plenty of things to see and do for people of any age

Fun for the kids comes in the shape of an adventure playground, inflatable slide, balloon modelling, face painting, magic shows and more. And there's lots for the oldies to enjoy too!

If you're stuck for ideas about what to do during the school holidays, Family Pride is an event that's well worth catching. Head to familyprideuk.co.uk to buy your tickets.

SHREWSBURY PINK PICNIC: Socialising and sausage rolls

Saturday 6 August
The Quarry, Shrewsbury
lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

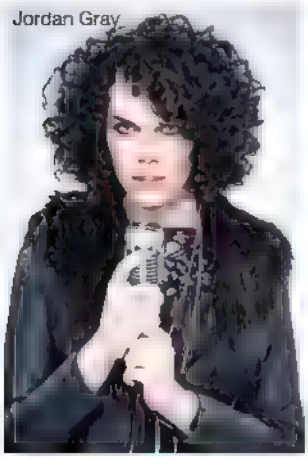
Summer isn't summer without a picnic, and that's why we're looking forward to the return of the annual Pink Picnic in Shrewsbury.

Taking place in the picturesque setting of The Quarry, a 29-acre parkland in the heart of the town, the event sees members of the local LGBT community gather together for an afternoon of fun, games, socialising and of course, food and drink

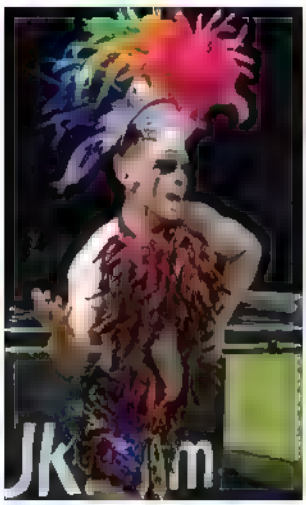
Everyone's welcome at the Pink Picnic - simply look out for the large gathering of rainbow flags, head on over and join in the fun

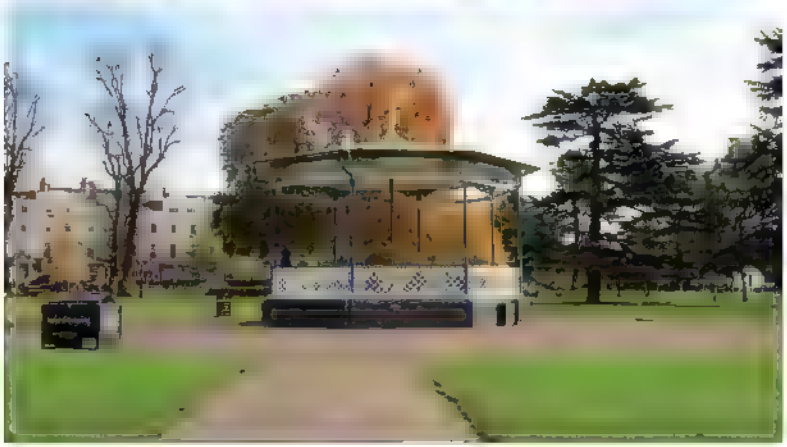
We're just hoping the weather's fantastic - nobody wants to be huddled under an umbrella eating soggy sandwiches, do they?

WARWICKSHIRE PRIDE: It's going to be a right royal affair!


Jordan Gray

Vangelis





Saturday 20 August
Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa
warwickshirepride.co.uk

You're in for a regal treat this month when a 'right royal'-themed Warwickshire Pride returns to The Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa.

Celebrating LGBT culture within the county, the one-day festival is set to feature over 100 stalls, a main stage, drag queens, fairground rides, a Mad Hatter's tea party for children, a dog show and all manner of fabulousness, glitter and rainbows!

The free event runs from 11am through till 6pm. Confirmed acts so far include Jordan Gray and Vangelis, both stars of BBC One talent show The Voice, as well as Twisted Rio, Ryan Jagger, Amrick Channa, King Sammy Silver, Sassi Afrika and more.

Enjoy the day - it's fit for a queen!

WALSALL PRIDE: Stooshe help celebrate five years!

Saturday 27 August
Gallery Square, Walsall
walsallpride.org

Five years ago, there was a new gay festival on the block - and boy, has Walsall Pride blossomed since then!

As we're all well aware, things have a tendency to get bigger and better - and Walsall Pride is no different!

To help celebrate the five-year milestone, organisers of the popular festival have secured a headline performance from amazing Black Heart singers Stooshe, as well as Everybody's Free vocalist Rozalla and up-and-coming pop star Allan Jay.

There'll be plenty more to enjoy at Pride too, including the Red Lion's fantastic-as-usual cabaret marquee and a weekend-long party at The Lion Bar & Club. It's certainly going to be a couple of days to enjoy!

SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST 2016

Walsall Pride

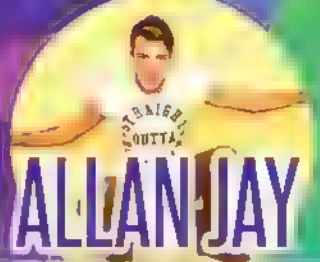
CELEBRATING
5 YEARS
FREE EVENT
ALL WELCOME

STOOSHE

(BLACK HEART / SLIP / LET IT GO)

ROZALLA

(EVERYBODY'S FREE)



ALLAN JAY

(PERFORMING HIS BRAND NEW SINGLE WITH ROZALLA)

PLUS MORE ACTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

PLUS CABARET MARQUEE - MARKET STALLS - FAIR RIDES
HEALTH & INFORMATION STALLS - AFTER PARTY

11AM - 5PM GALLERY SQUARE

WWW.WALSALLPRIDE.ORG

THE RED LION Walsall

Walsall Council

acts2book.com

ZONE

FOX & SQUIRREL

The Lion Bar & Club

The New Art Gallery Walsall

LOTTERY FUNDED

The Lion Bar & Club

WALS

Pride We

PRIDE FRIDAY 26TH AUG

PRIDE SA 27TH A

BIG P

STOO

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DJ

UV Facepainter

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Drinks Promotions

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Eva Iglesias
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SALL
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TURDAY
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A'S
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Full
30min
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Beyonce Tribute
ac • Shaun Clifford
PRIDE SUNDAY
28TH AUG
CABARET EXTRAVAGANZA
Pam
Katz
Champagne
Shirley
Mitzy
Mansell
Ms Mo
Bility
Miss
Lips
Miss
Penny
Brenda La Beau
(2016 Drag Idol RUNNER UP)
Hosted by Mrs Mills
DJ'S
ZAC HUMPAGE, VIKKI SCOTT, PRIMANI
• SATURDAY 27TH AUG: 4PM-5AM
subject to licencing
UG • Tel - 01922 610 977 • Facebook - lionbarandclub

Eighth LEICESTER PRIDE set to be 'biggest and best yet'!

Victoria Park, Leicester

leicesterpride.com

In what is the first Midlands Pride festival of September, Leicester Pride returns with a bang in 2016 and promises to be 'the biggest and best yet', according to organis-

As usual, the whole thing kicks off with a huge parade snaking through the city's streets, making its way to Victoria Park where the festivities really begin

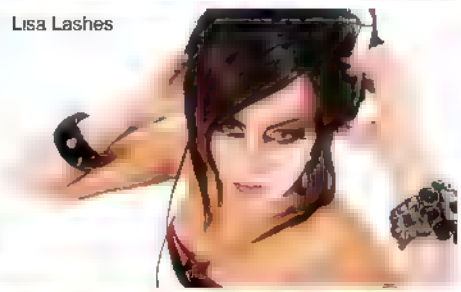
With a main stage, dance arena and more community stalls than you can shake a stick at, the festival promises to be one heil of a great day out'

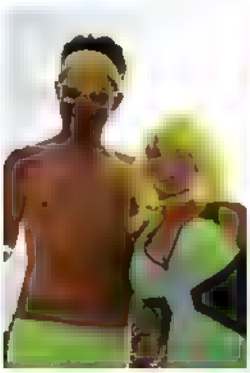
Top international DJ Lisa Lashes returns once again, whilst headlining the main stage for 2016 is The Voice's Vangelis, Angie Brown and Pride festival favourite Kelly Wilde. We can't wait!

Angie Brown

Vangelis

Lisa Lashes





SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER VICTORIA PARK

ANGIE BROWN | LISA LASHES | KELLY WILDE
KY KELLY | FANNY BURNS | VANGELIS | ROBBIE LEWIS
SIMON BAKER | ROB LAMBETH | LEA MARTIN | MISS MARTY
NICKI FRENCH | NIKK MAGER | THE VISION | BENJAMINBNG | GIORGIA ROBSON

- AREAS INCLUDE -

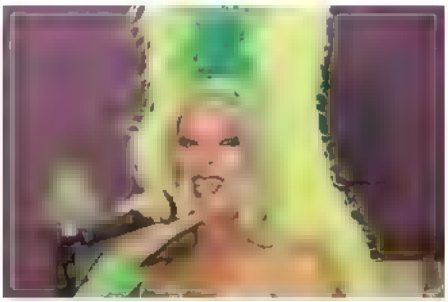
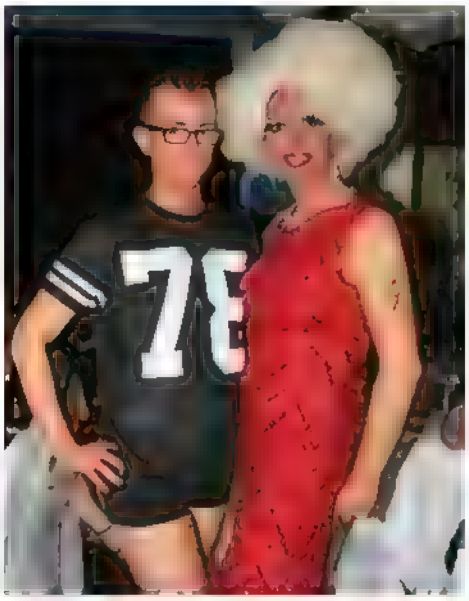
MAIN STAGE | DANCE TENT | MARKET STALLS | FOOD & DRINK

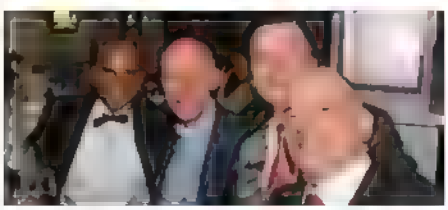
PLUS CITY CENTRE PARADE FROM 12PM AT THE CURVE

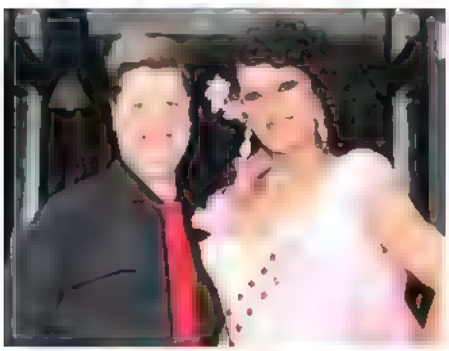
WALSALL PRIDE BALL:
Over £1,000 raised for charity

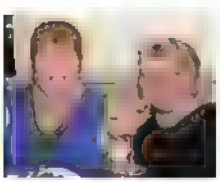
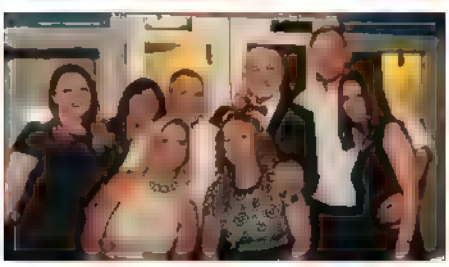
Friday 1 July saw the LGBT community in Walsall come together for the annual Pride Ball, as usual held at local restaurant Arbor Lights.

The evening was a great success and comprised a three-course meal, cabaret, the annual Proud Awards and a charity raffle. An after-party was later held at The Lion Bar & Club. The Ball raised an impressive £1,400, which will go towards Walsall Pride on Saturday 27 August. Congratulations to everybody involved!





Red Lion (FP- August 16).qxp Layout 1 29/07/2016 17:05 Page 1

Walsall
Pride
The Red Lion Cabaret Tent
THUNDER PUSSY - SON OF A TUTU - TANYA HYDE -
DIVINE MISS M - MITZY - MISS PENNY - SANDRA -
CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY - MISS LIPS - MITZY MONROE
- MRS MILLS - SILVER SUMMERS - PAM CATZ
HOSTED BY...
Glamour
1PM-2AM
FREE
ENTRY
SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST

Girls just wanna have fun at another successful L FEST

The summer sun shone bright and a whole host of ladies in party mood last month came together for L Fest, the UK's biggest lesbian festival.

In what's being described as one of the best L Fest events yet, the amazing group of girls partied, listened to music, attended art workshops and got stuck in to plenty more besides.

The family-friendly event was held on the sprawling Uttoxeter Racecourse and featured headline artists Heather Peace and Saffron. Roll on 2017!

Birmingham LGBT

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Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

Here to support you – not to judge you!

Our free and confidential services include:

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- Specialist services and staff available to support Trans people, Lesbian and Bisexual Women, Black African, African Caribbean, South Asian and Middle Eastern Men who have sex with men
- Weekly walk-in nurse-led sexual health clinic (Thursdays 12.00-19.15 with last walk-in slot at 18.30)
- Free condoms, lube, dams and gloves
- Free HIV and STI testing
- Peer mentoring support
- Support around domestic and sexual abuse
- Referral to counselling and peer support

Contact the Sexual Health Team at the Birmingham LGBT Centre:

birminghamlgbt.org.uk
sexualhealth@blgbt.org
0121 643 0821

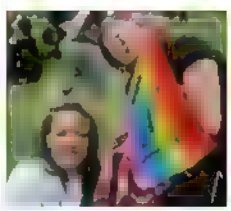
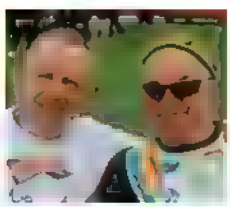
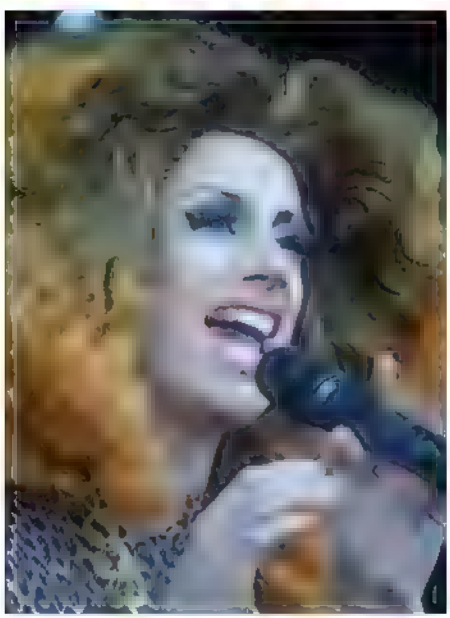
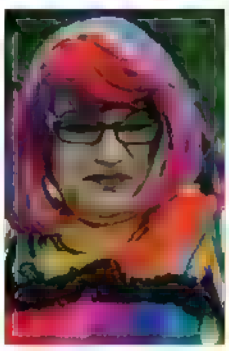
umbrellahealth.co.uk
0121 237 5700

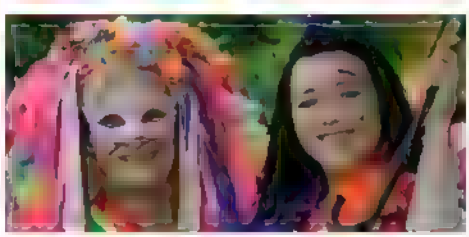
Crowds descend on second annual CHESTERFIELD PRIDE

Returning for a second year, last month's Chesterfield Pride attracted thousands of party-going people, offering proof aplenty of just how out'n'proud the Derbyshire town really is...

With headline acts including Angie Brown, Kelly Wild and Jason Prince, the people of Chesterfield partied throughout the day. The festival also hosted a wealth of stalls, providing education, information and plenty of souvenirs for punters to purchase. Chesterfield Pride is a fast-growing LGBT festival and we're expecting bigger and better things in the coming years...

See you in 2017!



Pictures by Gay Pride Pics

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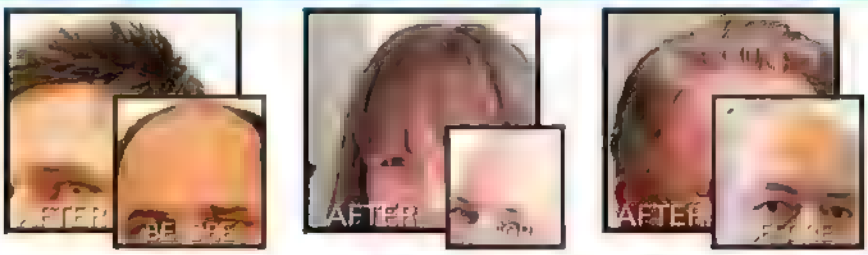

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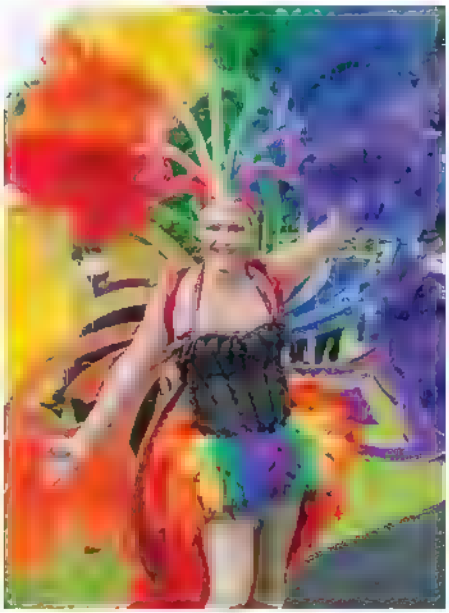
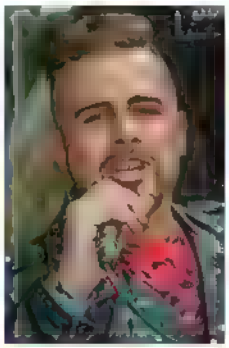
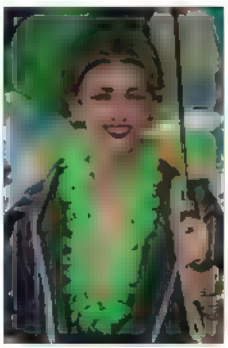
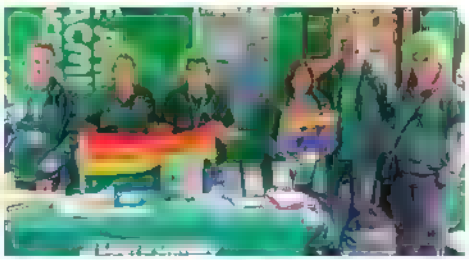
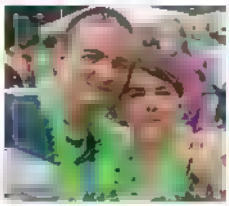
10th STOKE-ON-TRENT PRIDE biggest and best yet

Despite the drizzle, the city of Stoke-on-Trent came out to party with pride last month for its 10th annual LGBT festival.

Hosted in Northwood Park, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent Pride saw the city's LGBT community show just how proud they are! There were rainbows and glitter galore - not to mention the odd umbrella, due to the weather - at what was undoubtedly the biggest and best edition of the event yet! Stoke-on-Trent Pride is a real staple of the Midlands' gay festivals calendar - we're just hoping for better weather in 2017!



Pictures by Fox & Squirrel Photography

GayLife

NHS

Summer & Safer Sex...

Summer checklist:

- [x] Condom Packs
- [x] Suncream
- [x] Sunglasses
- [x] Hat
- [x] Swimming Shorts

Always make sure Condoms are at the top of your **Summer checklist!**

For more information on how you can access **FREE Condom Packs** across North Staffordshire visit Gaylife

www.lgbtstoke.co.uk

GaylifeSSOTP

@GaylifeNstaffs

PRIDE UK Diary Dates

AUGUST

Thursday 4 - Sunday 7 August
University of Central Lancashire
bicon.org.uk

Family Pride
Friday 5 - Monday 8 August
Barnswood Scout Camp, Leek
familypride.uk.co.uk

Brighton Pride
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 August
Preston Park & St James Street
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride
Sunday 7 August
Lower Briggate
leedspride.com

Cymru Pride
Saturday 13 August
Coopers Field, Cardiff
cardiffmardi gras.co.uk

Plymouth Pride
Saturday 13 August
Hoe Park
prideinplymouth.co.uk

Glasgow Pride
Saturday 20 August
Glasgow Green
pride scot

Warwickshire Pride
Saturday 20 August
Pump Room Gardens
warwickshirepride.co.uk

Swindon & Wiltshire Pride
Saturday 20 August
Town Gardens, Swindon
swindonwiltshirepride.co.uk

Doncaster Pride
Saturday 20 August
Sir Nigel Gresley Square
doncasterpride.co.uk

Manchester Pride
Friday 26 - Monday 29 August
Manchester Gay Village
manchesterpride.com

Cornwall Pride
Saturday 27 August
Lemon Quay, Truro
cornwallpride.com

Walsall Pride
Saturday 27 August
Gallery Square
walsallpride.org

SEPTEMBER

Leicester Pride
Saturday 3 September
Victoria Park, Leicester
leicesterpride.com

Reading Pride
Saturday 3 September
King's Meadow Park
readingpride.co.uk

Bolton Pride
Friday 23 - Sunday 25 September
Victoria Square
boltonpride.com

OCTOBER

Chester Pride
Saturday 1 October
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

GADGET GEEK!

01 Samsung Gear Fit2

When you're looking for motivation to stay at your best, the Samsung Gear Fit2 keeps you going. It automatically recognises whatever you're doing, from walking up a flight of stairs to working out at the gym, and starts monitoring steps, distance and more, mapping your run with built-in GPS.

£179.99
amazon.co.uk

02 Belkin Mixit 6600 Portable Power Pack

This Portable Power Bank features two USB ports for charging two devices at the same time. With a 6600 mAh capacity, it provides an optimal charge for your smartphone, tablet, wearables, action camera or other USB-enabled devices for hours of extra use.

£29.99
currys.co.uk

03 Motorola Verve Life Ones Wireless Earbuds

A new generation of completely wireless earbuds that deliver incredible sound. Designed to work with any smartphone, tablet or computer they fit securely inside your ears without wires so that you can listen free from distraction

£229.99

amazon.co.uk

04 Pokémon Go

The latest smartphone craze - wander around the real world in search of Pokémon, using your phone. Stumble across a Pikachu? Catch it using augmented-reality, then train it up and battle it at a nearby gym. Re-live your youth with this modern version of a classic '90s card game!

Free
App Stores

05 Nintendo Classic Mini

The classic NES is back in a familiar-yet-new form, as a mini replica of Nintendo's original home console. Plugging directly into your TV using a HDMI cable, the console comes complete with 30 NES games built in, including classics like Super Mario Bros, The Legend Of Zelda, Metroid, Donkey Kong and more!

Coming November

IN BRIEF

This season's best underwear styles to make you look and feel great...

COVER Jockey Sport Boxer Brief

Keep cool while performing your best in this boxer brief. Featuring a no-fly construction for maximum support, the ultra-smooth, quick-dry material provides a breathable fabric

jockey.co.uk

LEFT Barcode Berlin Mesh Backless Brief

Sexy, breathable mesh hugs your crotch and behind in the Sixty 7 Jock Brief from Barcode at Clonezone. Acting as a 'wonderbra' for your bulge, your junk is enhanced for a look that's good enough to eat. Elasticated jock straps support your behind.

£21.99

clonezone.co.uk

TOP RIGHT Pump Spring Fling Jogger Boxer

You'll look like you're ready to be seen with your pants off when you're in our PUMP! Spring Fling Jogger. Its bright colours are sure to draw the eye to all the right places. And you won't hesitate to lounge in them either, with their comfort, breathability and unique pockets.

£24.00

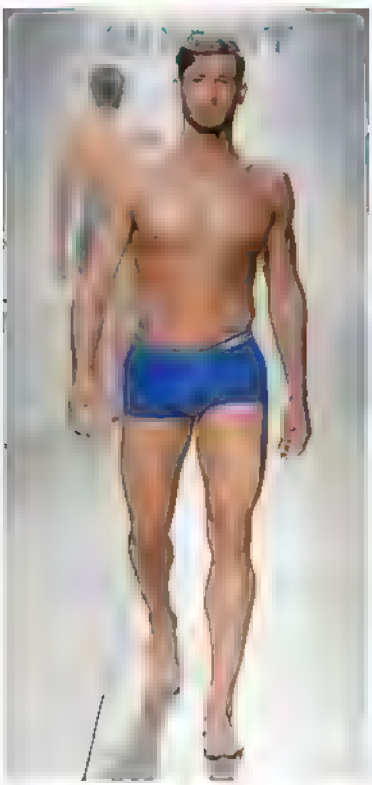
pumpunderwear.co.uk

BOTTOM LEFT 2xist Silq Cotton Mesh Trunk

A trunk with squared-off legs, an ultra-low rise, boosting pouch, and a panelled, stretch-cotton mesh construction.

£20.00

clonezone.co.uk

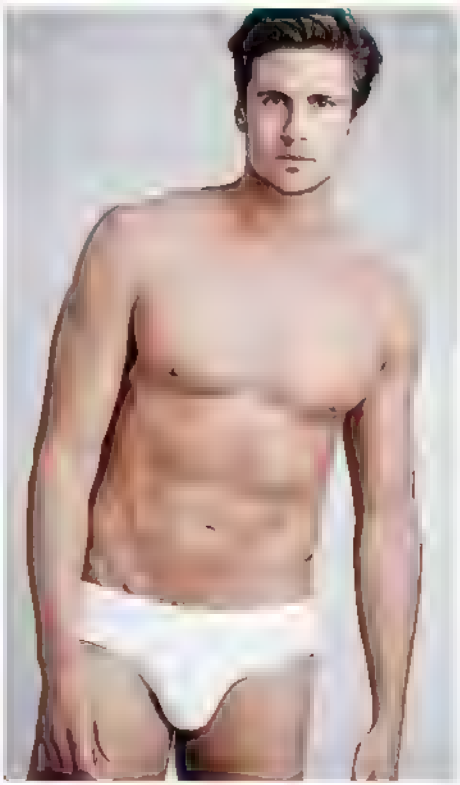


BOTTOM RIGHT Jockey Cotton+ Brief

Cotton+ is composed of a natural connection. Combining the botanic origin fibre Lyocell, Tencel with natural cotton fibres offers benefits like easy-care performance, cosiness and innovative moisture control.

£18.00

jockey.co.uk



TOP LEFT **Supawear Fruitopia Watermelon Brief**

This vibrant, super-sexy brief is designed in the unique colouring of that juicy fruit that everyone likes to take a bite out of.

£19.99
clonezone.co.uk

TOP RIGHT **Barcode Berlin Mesh Backless Brief**

Sexy, breathable mesh hugs your crotch and behind in the Sixty 7 Jock Brief from Barcode

£21.99
clonezone.co.uk

MIDDLE **Nasty Pig Maneuver Camo Brief**

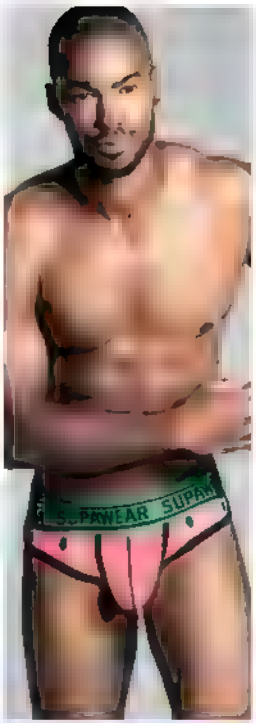
Make your way through the night in this Maneuver Brief. Printed super-soft modal fabric with a custom camo that cleverly blends the logo into the pattern

£19.99
clonezone.co.uk

BOTTOM **Aussiebum Lionheart Trunk**

Don't let the silky-smooth, lightweight and incredibly soft fabric fool you - these 'Tartan' prints are both striking and fierce

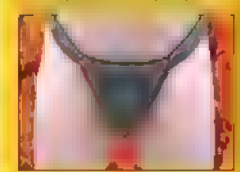
£20.25
aussiebum.com



www.jdlforleather.co.uk

VISIT THIS WEBSITE FOR OUR RANGE OF QUALITY LEATHER CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES, STEEL AND LEATHER BONDAGE, AND OUR AROMAS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES.

Leather Jock

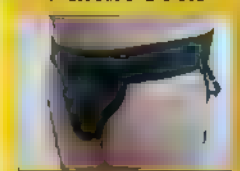


£19.95

Boxer Shorts

£38.95 - £42.95

Macho Jock



£39.95

Deluxe Jock

£42.95

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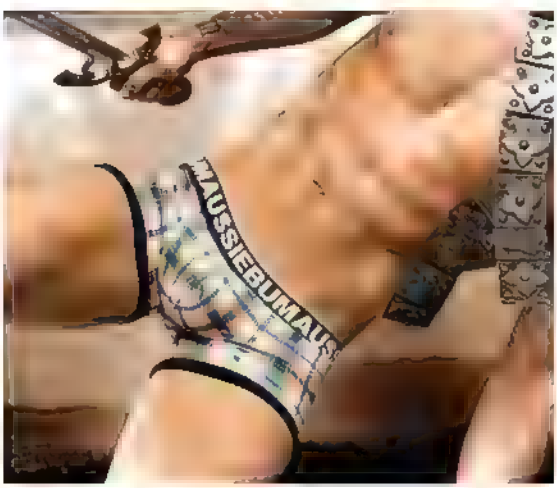
OR DOWNLOAD A COPY FROM OUR WEBSITE.



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OFFER VALID FROM AUGUST 1ST 2016 UNTIL AUGUST 31ST 2016

WHAT'S IN YOUR PANTS?

So you've got a nice pair of pants in which to look impressive - but are you worried there's something in them that shouldn't be there? Birmingham LGBT gives us the low-down on what's likely to be lurking in them...

There's nothing quite like the feeling of wearing a brand new pair of sexy pants. It's a real confidence booster - and it's always great to pull someone and find out they're wearing some sexy underwear. But have you ever wondered what other surprises might be waiting for you down there?

We all know how important it is to give the right first impression, from what you're wearing and what aftershave you're using to having fresh breath and clean teeth - but what about our sexual health? Do we take as much pride in what's in our pants as what's on them?
It doesn't take long to have a sexual health checkup, and there's a great feeling of emotional wellbeing and confidence that comes with taking control of the situation. Think of it as being 'match ready' (or at least ready to play with something)

Here's a couple of things which could be found in your pants that you'd probably prefer weren't there ...

Pubic Lice (Crabs)

Pubic lice are tiny, parasitic insects that live on coarse human body hair, such as pubic hair. As well as being found in pubic hair, the lice are also sometimes found in underarm and leg hair, hair on the chest, abdomen and back, facial hair such as beards and moustaches, eyelashes and eyebrows (only very occasionally).

Pubic lice are spread through close bodily contact, most commonly sexual contact. They aren't connected to poor personal hygiene. The lice crawl from hair to hair but can't fly or jump, and they need human blood to survive It's also possible - though less common - for pubic lice to be spread through sharing clothes, towels and bedding. Because these lice are usually spread by direct, intimate skin-to-skin contact, avoid contact with known infected people - and also with textiles or clothing that may have been infested by someone who's infected

Symptoms are the same for men and women. These include: itching in the affected areas; inflammation and irritation caused by scratching; black powder in your underwear; blue spots or small spots of blood on your skin, such as on your thighs or lower abdomen (caused by lice bites)

Pubic lice can be treated at home with insecticide cream, lotion or shampoo. Your GP, pharmacist or sexual health clinic can advise you about which treatment to use and how to use it. It's important to follow their advice. Some treatments only need to be applied to the affected area, but sometimes the whole body must be treated. The treatment usually needs to be repeated after three to seven days. After treatment has been completed, ensure that all clothing and linens have been thoroughly cleaned to avoid re-infection or spread of infection to someone else in the home

Scabies

Scabies is an itchy skin condition caused by a parasitic mite which lives on the skin and burrows into it. It can be passed from one person to another through close skin-to-skin contact. The skin-to-skin contact needs to be for a reasonably long period of time, however - usually at least 15 to 20 minutes. The mites live in skin and can survive away from the host human for about 24 to 36 hours. You are unlikely to catch scabies from an infected person by brief, casual contact such as a handshake or a hug. You are also unlikely to catch scabies from bedding and towels, unless you share them or use them immediately after they've been used by someone with scabies. However, just in case, it's best to treat bedding and towels by hot washing.

Symptoms are the same for men and women and include:

Itching - This is the main symptom of scabies.

Mite tunnels (burrows) - These may be seen on the skin as fine, dark or silvery lines about two to 10mm long.

Rash - The rash usually appears soon after the itch starts. Typically blotchy and lumpy, it can appear anywhere on the body

Scratching - Scratching due to intense itching can cause minor skin damage. In some cases, the damaged skin becomes infected by other germs (bacteria)

Aggravation of pre-existing skin conditions - Scabies can worsen the symptoms of other skin conditions, particularly itchy skin problems such as eczema, or problems such as psoriasis.

To confirm the diagnosis, a skin sample may be gently scraped from the affected area so it can be examined under a microscope for evidence of scabies mites, their eggs and faeces.

Various treatments are available but none will completely get rid of the itching immediately. The most common treatment is the application of an insecticide cream Treatment decisions must be made in consultation with your medical provider, as these medications are only available by prescription. If more than one person is infected, the clinician may be able to prescribe for those close contacts as well. Cleaning of clothing and bedding which might have been infested should be done on a hot wash to eliminate all the mites. Daily hot baths and scrub-

bing with soap and water will NOT cure a scabies infestation. Insecticide cream must be used

However, you will still be itchy for a while after successful treatment. It's normal for it to take up to two or three weeks (and sometimes up to six weeks) after the mites have been killed by treatment for the itch to go completely

Even after successful treatment, in a small number of cases there may remain some itchy brownish-red lumps (nodules) up to 2cm in diameter. If these remain, they most commonly occur on the genitals and armpits. These lumps are neither infectious nor mean that the mite is still present. They occur in some cases as a prolonged skin reaction to the scabies mite. If they occur, they usually go within three months, but occasionally last up to one year. As itching can be a distressing symptom, you could speak to your GP or pharmacist, who can usually give advice regarding suitable products (such as creams or lotions) that can help. Avoid applying strong steroid creams, especially if the diagnosis of scabies is uncertain. The treatment for all family members should be started at the same time in order to control the spread of the infection. Only when the life cycle of the mite is broken can it be eradicated.

So, if it's not just the material of your pants that's making you itch, pop in and see Birmingham LGBT for a sexual health checkup.

Birmingham LGBT is located at the Birmingham LGBT Centre, 38/40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham.

For more information, email sexualhealth@blgbt.org or call 0121 643 0821

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
ZONE
THE UNDERWEAR ISSUE
THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
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That's Entertainment!

This month's hot DVD, music and book releases...

DVD BOYS ON FILM 15: TIME & TIDE

Boys On Film is back with a brand new selection of hot British shorts, showcasing some of the UK's best emerging talent
A night in a gay sauna turns into a fight for survival, two men sit on a park bench speaking Polari, a relationship becomes heated on a night out in London's Soho, sexual adventures await two men in Sir John's Trouser Bar, a teenager time travels into the future through his bedroom closet, London's chemsex scene is put into perspective one night at a chill-out party and two outcasts find hope in the morning's sunrise.
Get bed down and prepare to be enticed, seduced and inspired as you embark on this journey through time in the biggest Boys On Film collection yet.

DVD LIKE CATTLE TOWARDS GLOW

Consisting of five independent, thematically and emotionally interconnected scenes, Like Cattle Towards Glow is a complex, intimate, strangely serene, wide-ranging and always challenging exploration of sexual desire as a hiding place. In these unique, stylistically and temperamentally diverse scenes, each one featuring its own set of characters and storylines, sex makes a promise of something so intense and untenable that the characters feel they must engage with it in secret. The engagement must come through an act of violence, or under the guise of an unrelated transaction, or by rationalising its dangers away with the help of politics, or through utilising it remotely as material for a purely aesthetic project.

BOOK WEEKEND by Jane Eaton Hamilton

On her 50th birthday, crazy-in-love Ajax visits her mercurial lover Logan, who trails their tarnished reputation like a lapsed halo. Logan has secrets, but so does Ajax, and during their weekend getaway to Ontario's cottage country, some of these secrets prove explosive
In the next cottage, long-term couple Joe and Elliot are having their own challenges as the parents of a newborn baby girl Joe isn't sure if Elliot loves her or even if Elliot wanted a baby at all. Can she make it through a weekend - let alone the rest of her life - feeling as she does? Jane Eaton Hamilton's ninth book is an intimate, sexy, queer romance - a bold and heart-breaking consideration of the true nature of love at the cusp of middle-age, and a contemplation about trust, negotiation, and what's worth keeping in the end.

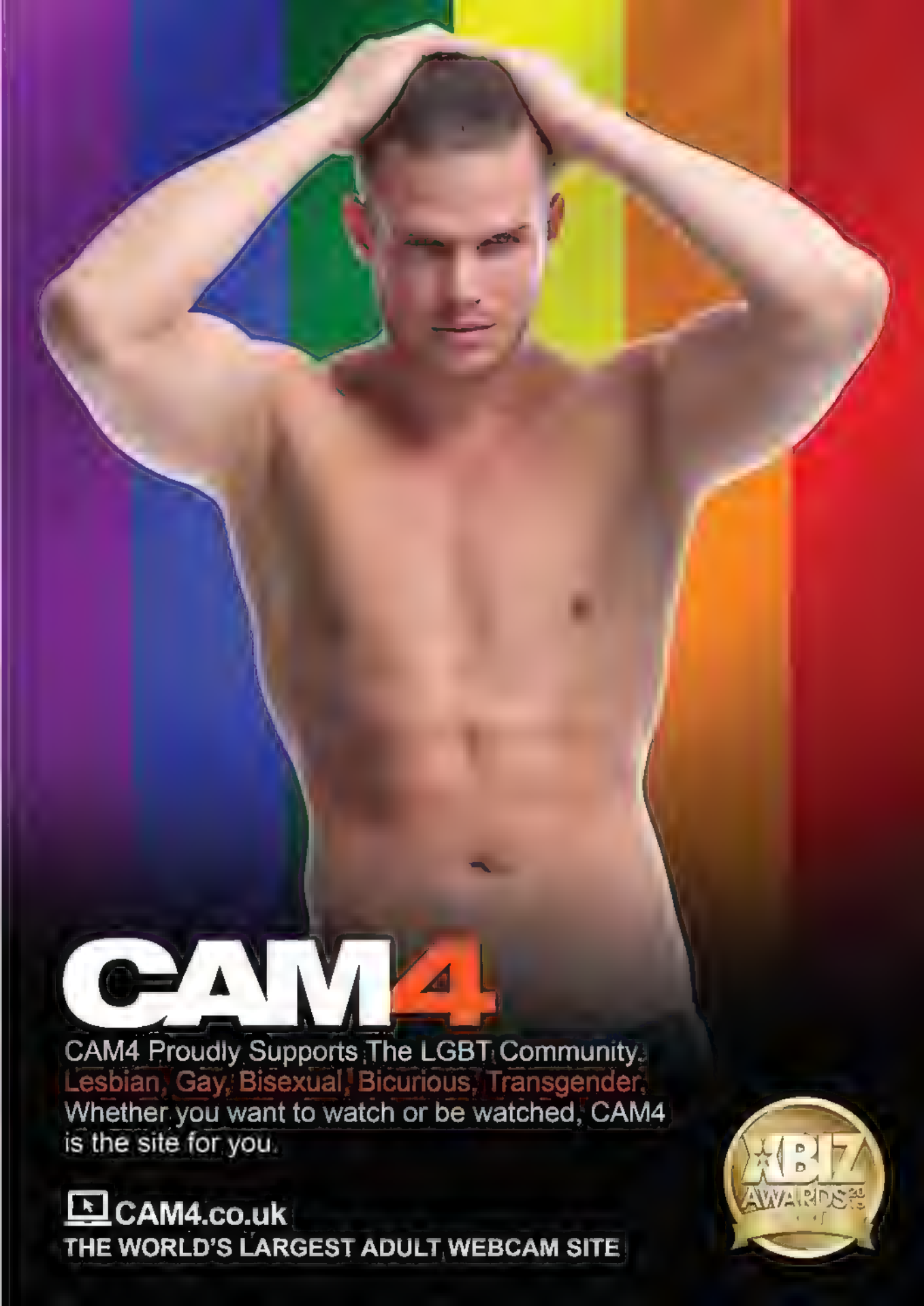
MUSIC STAND AS ONE – GLASTONBURY LIVE

A host of world famous musicians, including Coldplay, Muse and Years And Years, come together for this charity album produced by Glastonbury and Oxfam. Profits go to Oxfam's Refugee Crisis Appeal and the Jo Cox Fund.

SPUNK LUBE

spunklube.com

THE LUBE EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT!


CAM4
CAM4 Proudly Supports The LGBT Community.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Bicurious, Transgender.
Whether you want to watch or be watched, CAM4
is the site for you.
CAM4.co.uk
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AWARDS

ZONE hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

1 V FESTIVAL

Weston Park, Staffordshire, Sat 20 & Sun 21 August

Among the UK's best-known music events, Virgin's V Festival brings together world-class performers in two beautiful parks for one epic cross-country weekend. Born in 1996 when Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker put forward the idea of playing in two outdoor venues over two days, V Festival is unique in taking place in two separate locations simultaneously. Chart-topping acts of all genres, along with a host of comedy talent, take to stages in Staffordshire and Chelmsford, visiting one on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

Line-up includes: Rihanna, Justin Bieber, David Guetta, Sia, Faithless, Kaiser Chiefs, Bastille, Little Mix, Jess Glynne, Jake Bugg, Years & Years, Rita Ora, Katy B, Tinie Tempah, James Morrison, Craig David's TS5, Travis, Tom Odell, Halsey, Sigma, All Saints, Lethal Bizzle, Rick Astley, Soul II Soul, Lightning Seeds, Corinne Bailey Ray, Laura Mvula and Annie Mac.

Comedy line-up includes: Bill Bailey, Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe, Sara Pascoe and Katherine Ryan.

2 MAMMA MIA!

Birmingham Hippodrome, until Sat 3 September

This legendary show is of course a nicely contrived vehicle for the chart-topping music of 1970s Super Troupers Abba. The Swedish Fab Four scored mega-hit after mega-hit with catchy numbers like Waterloo, Dancing Queen, The Name Of The Game, The Winner Takes It All and Take A Chance On Me - all of which are present and correct in this block-buster offering.

Abba boys Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus were both involved in the development of the show, while Anni-Frid Lyngstad - she's the dark one - contributed in a financial capacity.

A 2008 movie version received a thumbs up from many if not most of Mamma Mia!'s adoring fans - despite former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan having been given, rather unwisely, a Licence to Sing...

3 SISTER ACT

Curve, Leicester
Sat 30 July - Sat 13 August

Alexandra Burke stars in this hit show, which is based on the Whoopi Goldberg film of the same name and directed by Craig Revel Horwood. Packed to the rafters with songs inspired by Motown, funk, soul and disco, Sister Act tells the story of disco diva Deloris Van Cartier. After witnessing a murder, Deloris is put in protective custody by the police, in the one place they feel confident she won't be found - a convent, and disguised as a nun...

4 WILL YOUNG

Betley Court Farm, Cheshire
Fri 12 August

Will Young headlines Friday Night at Betley Concerts. His debut single, Anything Is Possible, was released two weeks after the final of Pop Idol, the TV talent show that made him famous. The record became the fastest-selling debut single in the UK. Young also came fifth in World Idol, performing his single Light My Fire.

Now touring with his brand new album, 85% Proof, Will's still very much taking the nation by storm.

5 SARAH MILLICAN

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Mon 29 - Tues 30 August

One of the brightest comedians around, Sarah Millican enjoyed a sell-out success with her very first tour, with bums on all available seats on no fewer than 120 laughter-filled nights. It almost goes without saying that she's not looked back since.

She returns to the Midlands with touring show Outside, in which she focuses on her recent switch from town to country living.

6 MIKE AND DAVE NEED WEDDING DATES

Released Wed 10 August

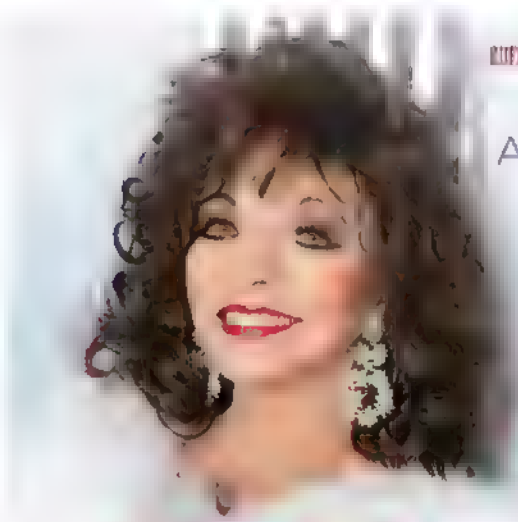
Starring: **Zac Efron, Anna Kendrick, Adam DeVine, Aubrey Plaza, Stephen Root** Directed by **Jake Szymanski (USA)**

Hunky Zac Efron continues the backlash against his formerly squeaky-clean persona, this time playing the outrageous Dave Strangle, who has a habit of destroying family get-togethers. However, when his sister is to be married in Hawaii, their parents insist that he and his brother Mike (DeVine) find appropriate dates for the occasion. So they advertise themselves on television

7 INSOMNIA

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sun 29 August

The UK's biggest gaming festival has recently relocated to Birmingham's NEC, having outgrown its previous home at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. Insomnia58 is a four-day, round-the-clock event 'combining all the best bits of video-gaming'. The show features LAN gaming halls, a huge exhibition hall, special guests 'doing cool interactive content', large-scale eSports tournaments and a wide selection of activities.



CUFFE AND TAYLOR BY ARRANGEMENT WITH JONATHAN SHALIT OBE FOR COLE KITCHENN AND NEIL O'BRIEN ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT

A BRAND NEW SHOW FOR 2016

JOAN Collins

UNSCRIPTED

26TH SEPT BIRMINGHAM, TOWN HALL

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0844 844 0444

WIN! A pair of VIP tickets to Birmingham's August Bank Holiday Dance Arena party!

If you've got nothing planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend, head to So It Goes and The Nightingale's epic Dance Arena. We've teamed up with the organisers of this amazing day-and-night party on Sunday 28 August to give a lucky reader the chance to win a pair of VIP tickets for the event, which takes place right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village.

WIN! A group VIP ticket for 10 people to see the UK Pleasure Boys!

If you're after some hot and steamy action on a Saturday night, we've got exactly what you're looking for!
One lucky Midlands Zone reader will get the chance for themselves and nine mates to attend Birmingham's Nightingale Club to see the hot and horny UK Pleasure Boys - VIP style! Strippers, cabaret, drinks and food - what a wild night out!

To enter these competitions, simply visit midlandszone.co.uk before Monday 22 August

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

OUT

AUGUST 2016

XXL: FOR BEARS AND BOYS IN BIRMINGHAM

DAN OSBORNE

READY TO [illegible] DEQUS IN WOLVERHAMPTON

BRENDA LA BEAU
Debut Birmingham show for the popular Britain's Got Talent cabaret star

FETISH FUN
The increasingly popular Birmingham versus Manchester returns to the city

BANK HOLIDAY CABARET!
Huge line-up of Bank Holiday cabaret at Birmingham bar

PINK PICNIC
EVERYONE WELCOME
at Kings Heath Park,
Birmingham
(next to the vicarage road car park on the playing field)
NO Bars | NO Funfair | NO Charge
Registered Charity No. 1141568
Sunday 11 September
1pm - 5pm
Birmingham LGBT
MIDLANDS ZONE
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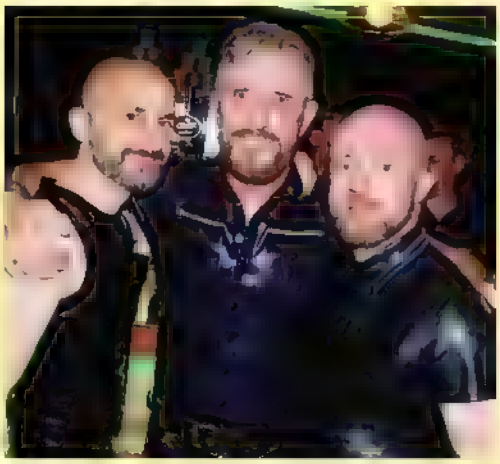
Hugely popular **BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN** event returns to Birmingham's Eden Bar



If you're into fetish wear, then be sure to check out Birmingham Fetish Men at the city's Eden Bar

The event, which sees a whole host of men don their leather, rubber or sports wear for the night, is growing increasingly popular with over a hundred horny geared up guys head to the award-winning venue

The dress code is strict - so grab some new gear, get it shined up and prepare for a great night out!

Birmingham Fetish Men takes place on Saturday 6 August in the Eden Bar Marquee

[illegible]

Get set for the Nightingale's **ARIANA** Party!

Now here's a Grande idea for a night out if ever there was one.

Birmingham's Nightingale Club is cordially inviting all lovers of pop and R&B music to visit the venue on the night of 13 August, to enjoy its sure-to-be-memorable homage to superstar American singer Ariana Grande

The 23-year-old one-time Victorious favourite won't be there herself, you understand, but that certainly shouldn't dampen down the spirits of Ariana fans on the lookout for a fantastic night of anthem-pounding, dancefloor-filling fun.

Cat ears at the ready, boys and girls...

[illegible]

Men-only night **XXL** returns to The Core in Birmingham

Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (19 August), the London club night's Midlands event features resident DJ Christian M playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed.

Oh, and if you fancy making your night out that little bit hotter, don't forget there's a dark room upstairs!

[illegible]

TOWIE star **DAN OSBORNE** set to make your summer even more Gorgeous

Bosses over at Wolverhampton's Gorgeous bar & club have announced that The Only Way Is Essex star Dan Osborne will visit the popular venue at the end of the month.

Hunky Dan will be bringing his impressive collection of muscles and tattoos to the club on August Bank Holiday Sunday - that's the 28th of the month - and is sure to cause a considerable stir

Entry to the club is only £1 before midnight, with drinks £1 until 1am

As sizzlingly super summer shenanigans go, we reckon the boys and girls at Gorgeous have got it covered!

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON

MONDAY

August 1 8 15 22 29

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

MINISTRY OF POUND - with Dj Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am
[illegible]

BINGO - Bingo with Queeny
The Village Inn

SUGAR RUSH - £2 entry
Nightingale Club

[illegible]
Bar Jester

OUTSKIRTS
[illegible]
Bar Jester

POUNDED
[illegible]
Sidewalk

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Featuring resident Dj Col, playing the best in chart hits, camp tunes and more. Live cabaret every 1st Monday of the month. ***Mon 1 August*** – the return of fantastic cabaret from the one and only award-winning Sandra Free admission before midnight and just £3 after
C:21, Shrewsbury

THE MONDAY CLUB - 9pm-5am - Student night. Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward.
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL NIGHT
Three Furnaces, Telford

GET THE PARTY STARTED
[illegible] With Dj Foxy D[illegible]
Gossip, Stoke on Trent

[illegible]
[illegible] drinks £[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2
[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

DISCO 7pm-midnight
New Foresters, Nottingham

TUESDAY

August 2 9 16 23 30

BIRMINGHAM

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am.
Nightingale Club

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR – With your host karaoke temptress, Gavina. Party starts at 9pm till late
[illegible]

OPEN YOUR SNATCH - Songs, Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
The Village Inn

TUNE UP TUESDAY [illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY [illegible]
[illegible] Drinks

music
The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible]
[illegible] Dj [illegible]
Velvet, Worcester

[illegible]
[illegible] DJ
Brewery Tap, Worcester

SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT - DJ and host
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

TWISTED TUESDAYS
[illegible]
Rainbows,
Coventry

EAST MIDLAN

2 TILL 2
[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free [illegible] midnight
New Foresters, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT [illegible]
[illegible]
Dover Castle, Leicester

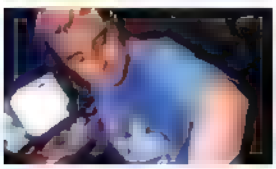
[illegible]

August 3 10 17 24 31

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

2 GOOD 2 MISS - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery. **Missing Bar**



KILLER KARAOKE – with Charlotte the Harlotte
The Village Inn

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS
[illegible]
Sidewalk

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL -
The Fox

WACKY WEDNESDAYS [illegible]
[illegible]
Bar Jester

WEDNESDAY LINE
[illegible]
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with Gla[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

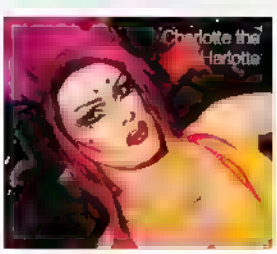
STUDENT CLUB NIGHT
[illegible] 1 a.m.
Three Furnaces, Telford

WACKY WEDNESDAYS
[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

KARAOKE - 9pm til 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm til 11pm. Free Entry
The Boston, Northampton

GAMES NIGHT [illegible]
[illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham



[illegible]

August [illegible]

[illegible]

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm.
Nightingale Club

DANNY BEARD - ***Thurs 18 August*** - Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist live on stage at Eden!
Eden

I <3 THE 90S - From 8pm with Dj Dan. Doors open from 2pm.
[illegible]

LADY IMELDA - ***Thurs 4 August*** - Drag queen veteran live on stage at Eden!
Eden

POUNDED - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. Dj Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese on the middle floor
Nightingale Club

TANGO THURSDAYS - with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am.
The Village Inn

THROWBACK THURSDAY - £1.20 bombs and great music!
[illegible]

DROP THE BOMB
[illegible]
Sidewalk

SHOT EXCHANGE
[illegible]
[illegible]
The Core

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 - with DJ James Levett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
Gorgeous, Wolves

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE
[illegible] [illegible]nks. Wi[illegible]
The Lion, [illegible]

DISCO & DJ A[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

[illegible]

2 TILL 2 - Open from 2pm til 2am for a quiet drink.
The Boston, Northampton

THE BIGGEST GAY

MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

MON 1ST AUGUST
SANDRA

MON 5TH SEPTEMBER
DRAG WITH NO NAME

Fabulous

PLUS: HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM // DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT!

C:21

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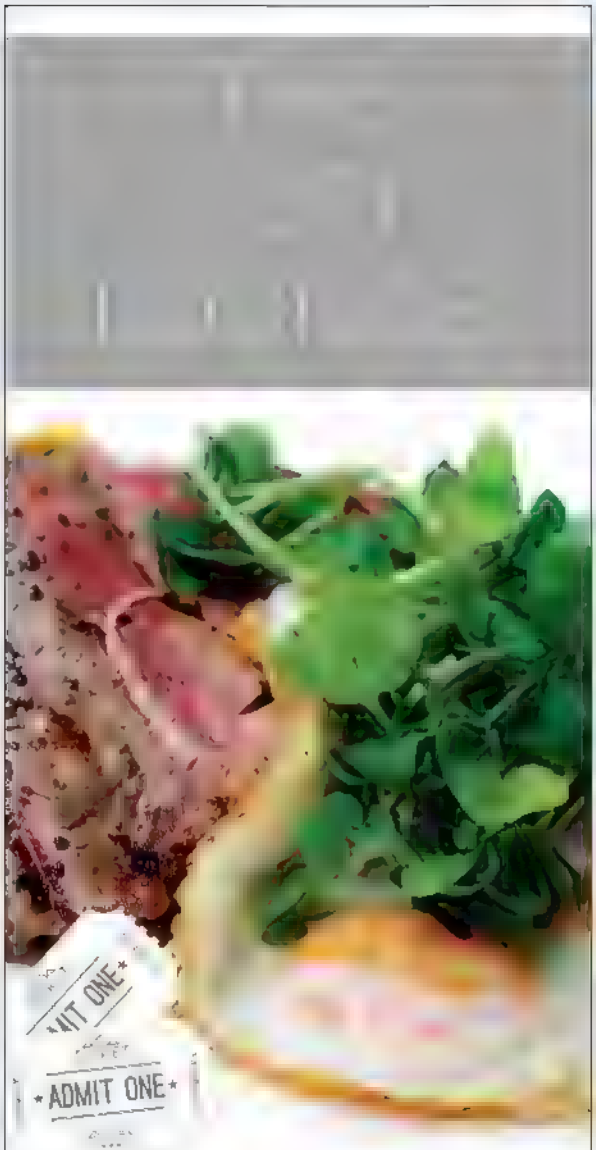

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*RESTRICTIONS APPLY

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0121 622 2444

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS – Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES - DJ Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too
Sidewalk

ASYLUM WITH MELISSA TOTTEN – *Fri 12 August* – A night of Madonna with the UK's favourite Madonna tribute act
Eden Bar

BIG GAY FRIDAY - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours.
Missing Bar

DIRTY STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki.
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY - Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. *Fri 5 Aug* - Baga Chipz. *Fri 12 Aug* - Miss Thunderpussy. *Fri 19 Aug* - Lady Imelda. *Fri 26 Aug* - Sandra.
The Village Inn

INFUSION - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. £2 entry
Nightingale Club

KICK START - Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.
Missing Bar

L&R - With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday
The Village Inn

LIP GLOSS – *Fri 5 August* – A night for the trans* community, admirers and friends. With Miss Penny Tanya Hyde, DJ Jason Green and stripper Gemini.
Eden Bar

MIDSBEARS – *Fri 19 August* – A night for the bear community, admirers and friends.
Eden Bar

OLD SKOOL GARAGE - The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed
Nightingale Club

SAATHI – *Fri 26 August* – Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash!
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites.
The Loft Lounge

XXL – *Fri 19 August* – Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month.
The Core Club

FUNK'D UP
Club Chic

KARAOKE
The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

THANK FUNK ITS FRIDAY
Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. 12am - 6am.
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

BANG
The Lion, Walsall

TV PARTY NIGHT - A Me
The Greenhouse, Darlaston

CLUB NIGHT
The Three Furnaces, Telford

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS
Rainbows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL
The Bell, Stourbridge

WEEKLY CABARET
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

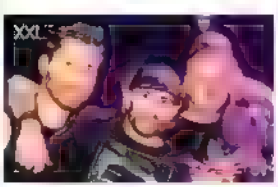
START THE WEEKEND
Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY
Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ Snuckies. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am.
The Boston, Northampton

Helsinki, Leicester



XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 8AM
PULSE
No.1 INVICTA PLACE SE1 9UF

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
9PM - 3AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS - with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256
Malvern Bar

THE ARIANA PARTY - ***Sat 13 August*** - A night dedicated to all things Ariana Grande!
The Nightingale

BIRMINGHAM FETISH MEN - ***6th & 27th August*** - A night for fans of fetish. Rubber, leather, sportswear and more
Eden Bar

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions.
Nightingale Club

BRENDA LA BEAU - ***Sat 20 August*** - Debut cabaret show at Eden Bar
Eden Bar

CULT - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS - in The Attic, plus music from across the decades.
Malvern

L&R - With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

MARY MAC - ***Sat 27 August*** - A night of cabaret with Mary Mac
Eden Bar

SATURDAY SESSIONS - With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION - Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything.
Sidewalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS - Every Saturday night (Room 4)
Nightingale Club

VICKY JACKSON BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL - ***Sat 27 August*** - A night of hits from the UK's best Pink tribute act and Midlands Zone award-winner, Vicky Jackson!
The Village Inn

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU - featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial with your host Twiggy!
Malvern

THE UNDERCOVER CLUB

CUB CHIC

REVOLUTION SATURDAYS

THE CORE CLUB

DJ PARTY NIGHT - Open 1

THE FOX

#JUST SAYING - Get in the pa

BAR JESTER

KARAOKE - Every Sat night
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

STRAWBERRY SATURDAYS - Wolverhampton's biggest night out with DJ Jame Levett!
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

BIG NIGHT OUT - Ba
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT - Drink promos unt
The Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

The Bell, Stourbridge

NOT TO MISS - Free admissio
Pink, Stoke on Trent

WEEKLY CABARET - with L
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT - 10pm til 6am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after **The Boston, Northampton**

CLUB NIGHT - With DJ Nik B Da

Helsinki, Leicester

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Funny Drag Queen compere and singer
Performances from the UK Pleasure Boys
After show party and nightclub
VIP upgrades subject to availability

7 14 21 28 August

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

BANK HOLIDAY CABARET SPECIAL - ***Sun 28 August*** - A night of cabaret with Miss Penny and Kara Van Park!
The Village Inn

RUBY MURRAY - ***Sun 28 August*** - Live cabaret from the Britain's Got Talent star
Eden

ELVIS STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE - with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
Eden Bar

LOCAL CABARET - with Charlotte the Harlotte. Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday
The Village Inn

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
Malvern Bar

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

SIDEWALK

CHILL OUT

THE FOX

BANK HOLIDAY

BAR JESTER

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY - 9pm-4am - Fun & Games, Karaoke. Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

THE PARTY LOUNGE

Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

KARAOKE & DJ

The White Hart, Wolverhampton

[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

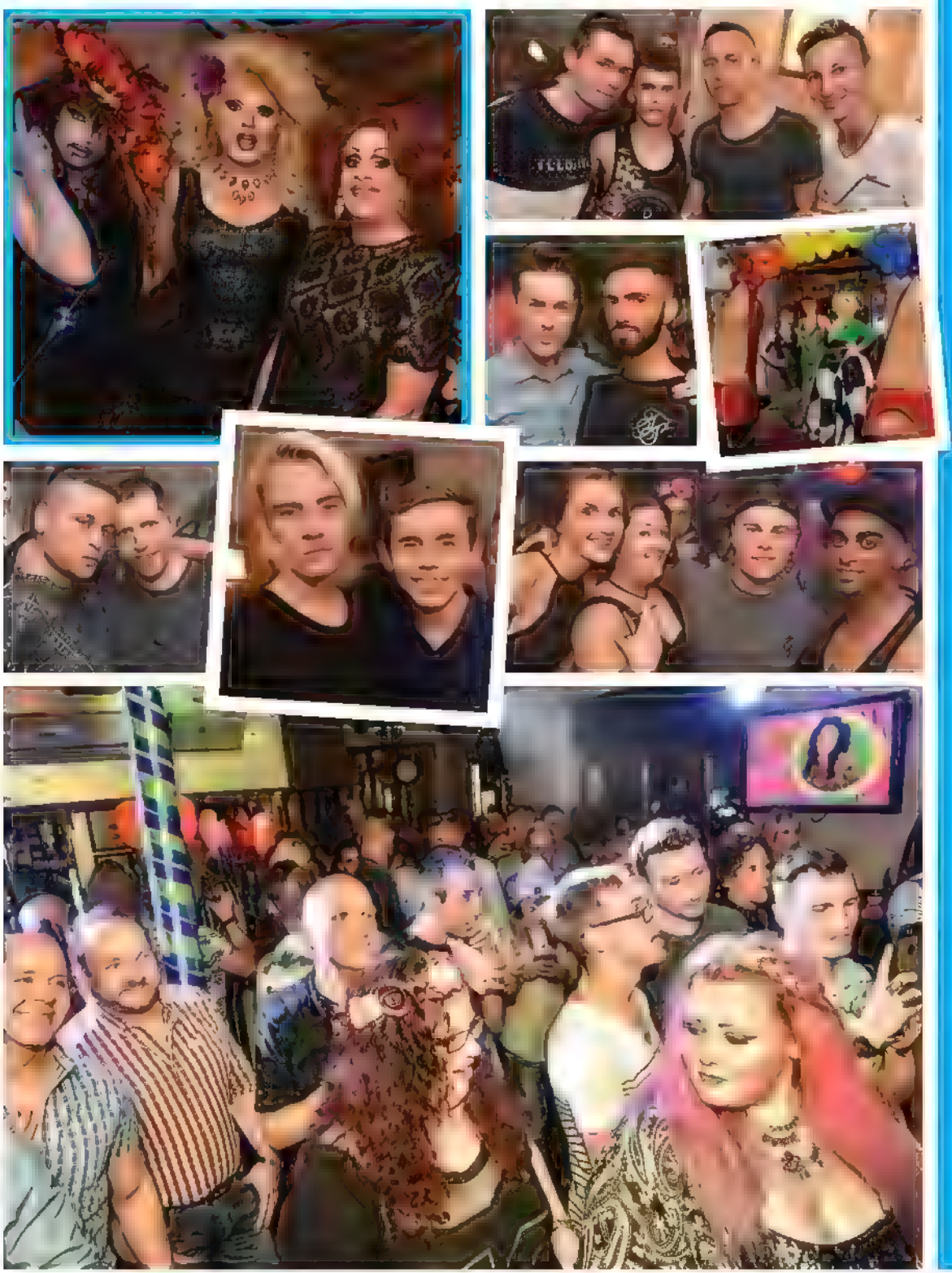
EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB

Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

Kim Chi slays at Birmingham's **Nightingale Club**!

The Village Inn is a great place to *drag* your mates!



THE VILLAGE INN

WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

AUGUST

BAGA CHIPZ
FRIDAY 5TH

LADY IMELDA
FRIDAY 19TH

MISS THUNDERPUSSY
FRIDAY 12TH

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 26TH
SANDRA

SATURDAY 27TH
VICKI JACKSON
AS PINK

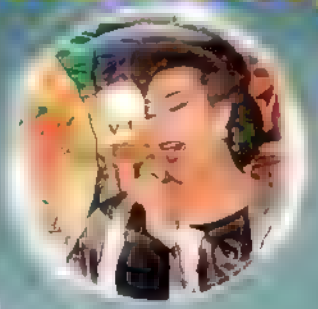
SUNDAY 28TH
MISS PENNY AND
KARA VAN PARK

VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

The men of the Midlands love Birmingham's **Eden**

ENTERTAINMENT FOR AUGUST

eden



THUR 4TH
LADY IMELDA

FRI 5TH With your hostess Miss Penny CABARET
DJ JASON GREEN MALE STRIPPER
LIP GLOSS

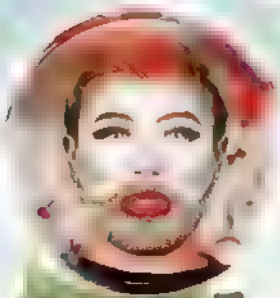
SAT 6TH
BFM

BFM
BIRMINGHAM FET SH MEN

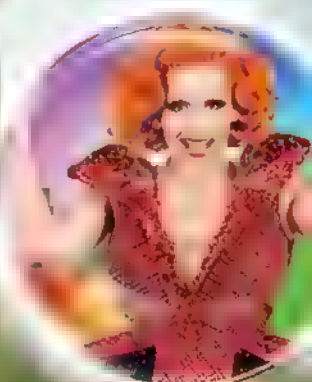
FRI 12TH
MELISSA TOTTEN

SAT 13TH
MORRISSEY DISCO

THURS 18TH
DANNY BEARD



FRI 19TH
MIDSBEARS



SAT 20TH DEBUTING AT EDEN BAR
BRENDA LA BEAU

SAT 27TH
MARY MAC

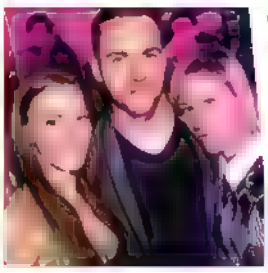
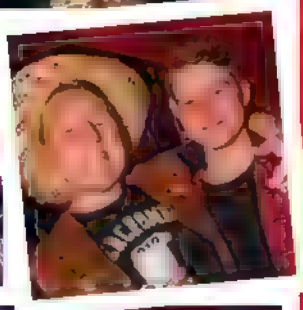
EVERY THURS EVERY FRI & SUN EVERY

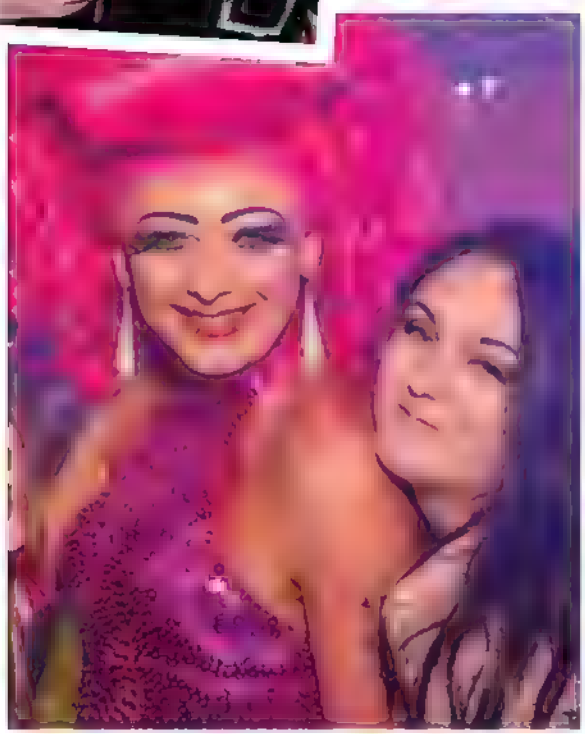
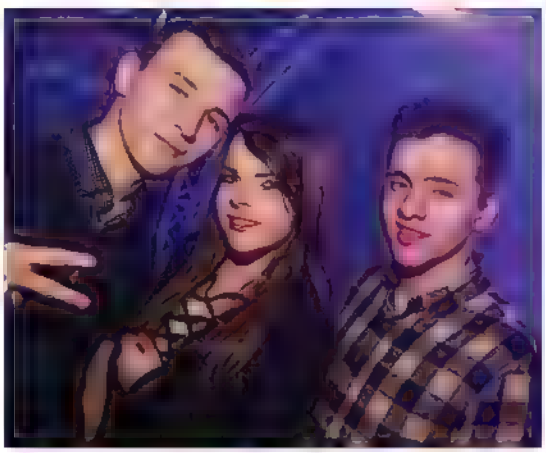
SUN 28TH FROM BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
RUBY MURRY

DISCO DJ NIKKI

116 SHERLOCK ST. BIRMINGH

Wolverhampton knows how to party at **Gorgeous**!

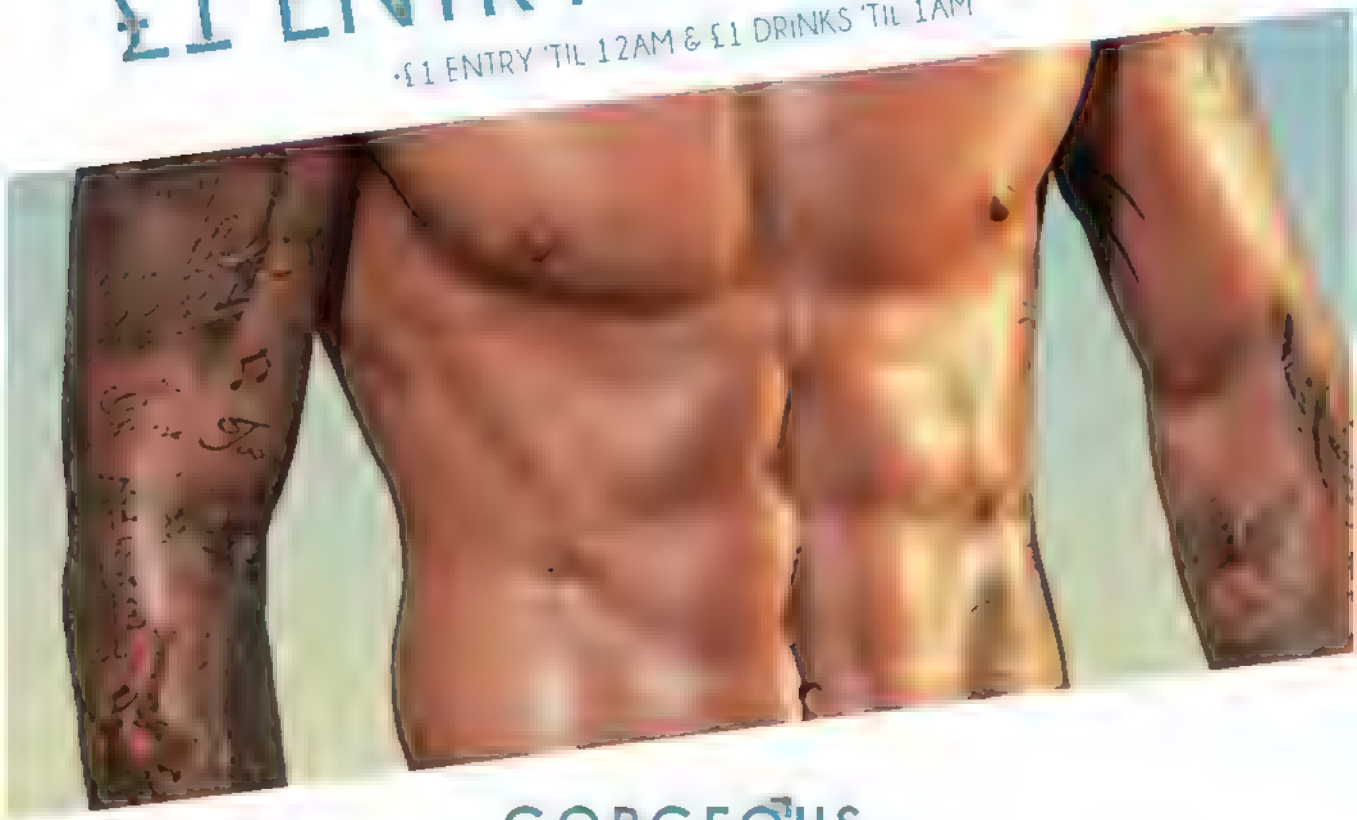



BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY 28TH AUG

£1 ENTRY - £1 DRINKS

*£1 ENTRY 'TIL 12AM & £1 DRINKS 'TIL 1AM



GORGEOUS

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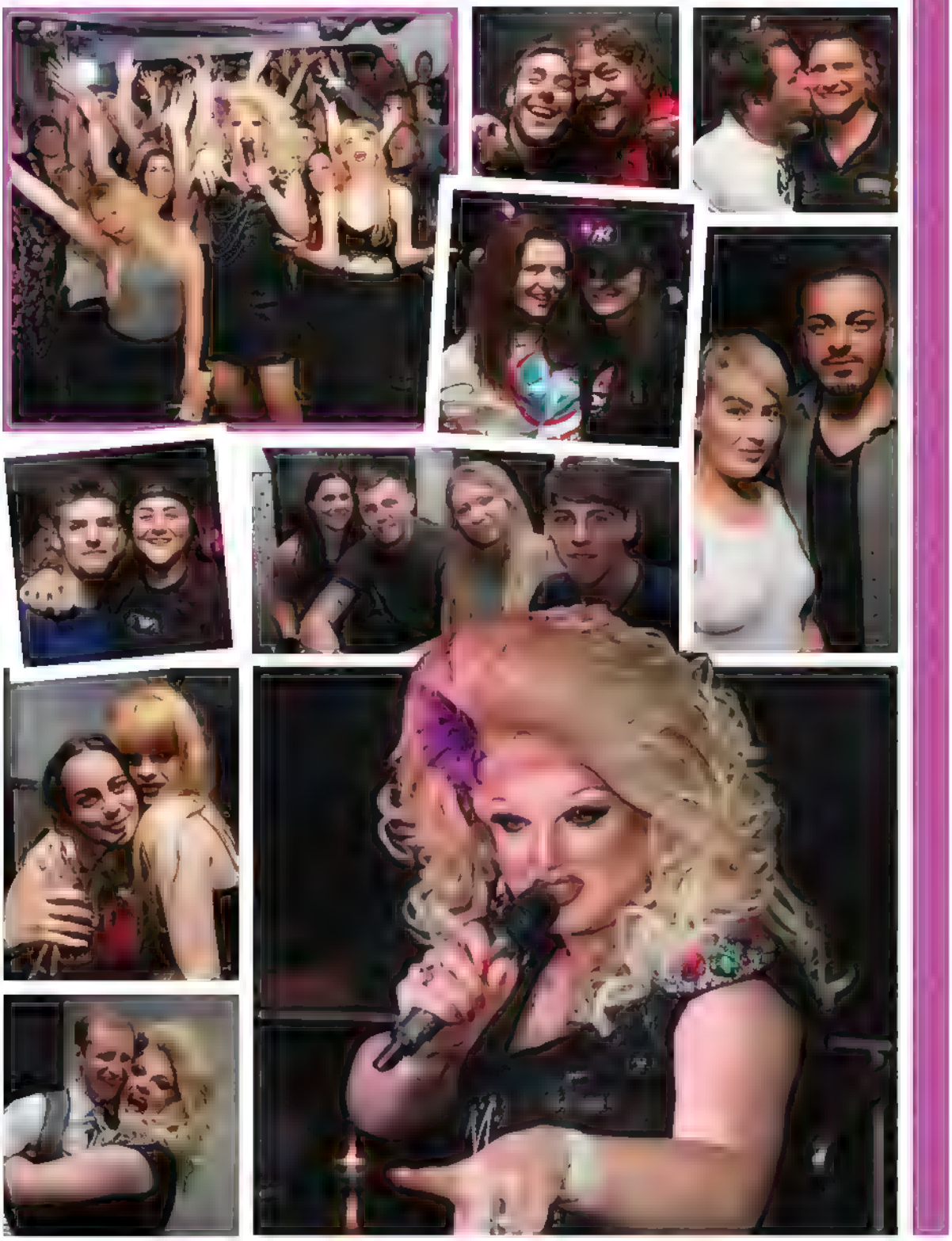
Miss Penny raises the roof at Shrewsbury's **C:21**



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www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 70

EQUATOR
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Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel:0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 69

MISSING BAR
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www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
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RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
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SIDEWALK
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THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 72

THE WELLINGTON
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West Midlands

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RAINBOWS
Short St Cv1 2LW
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GLOUCESTER

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/C21Nightclub

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PINK
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ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

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NO7
Prowd Crowd, 1st Mon
monthly, 7 Windsor St,
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley, TF7 4LB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
[illegible]
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
[illegible]
Tel: 01922 637790

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THE WHITE HART
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WV2 4LQ
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THE PUB
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WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

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DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
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Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO, Gay every Wed
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Tel: 0116 251 7986

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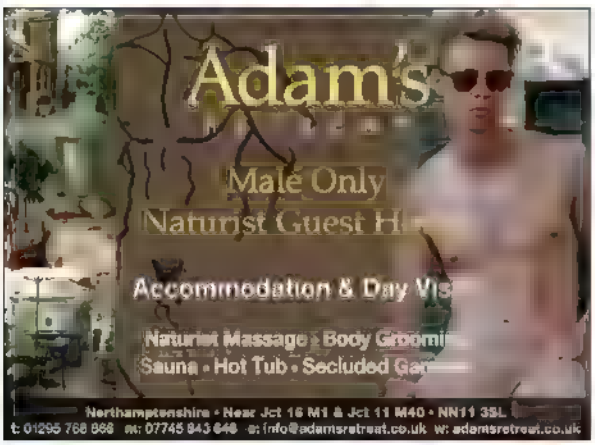
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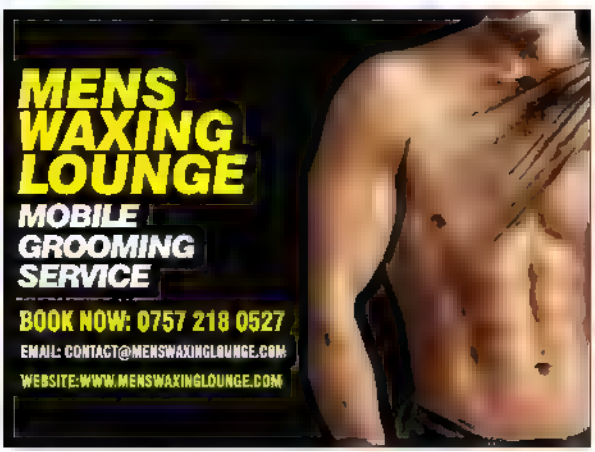

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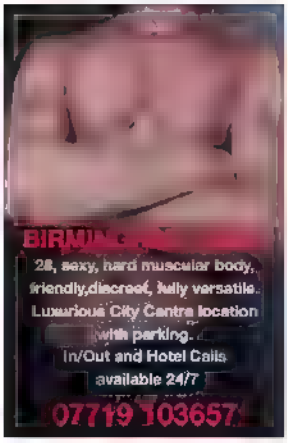
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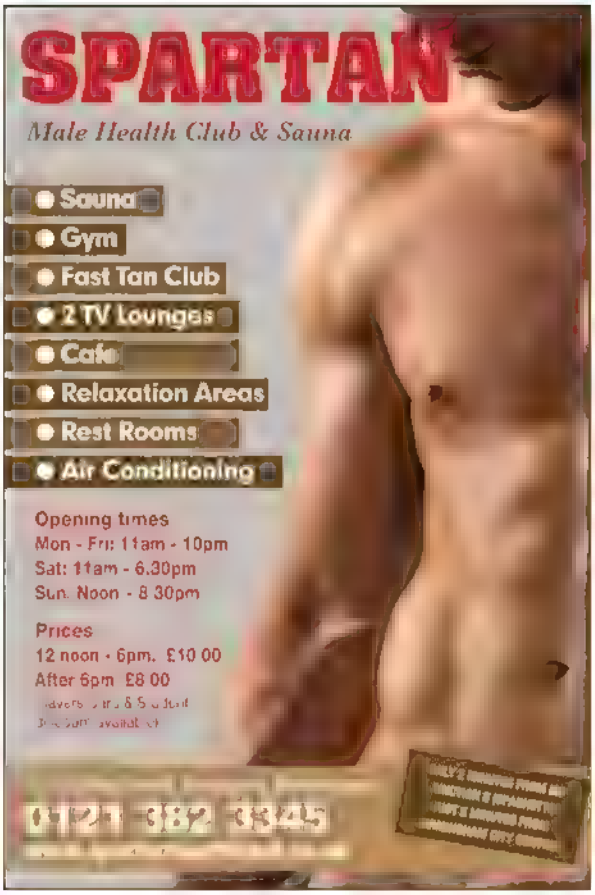
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THE LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY
by Stephen Spinks

Love Is Love

Historians say that history is simply a repeat of everything that has gone before; that 'what goes around, comes around'. Is it just me or has the world lost the plot in the last month? A half-crazed gunman in Orlando; Brexit; the rise and fall of prime ministers and politicians alike; racial hate and gun crime on the rise across the world, even in our backyard; terrorist attacks in the beautiful cities of Nice and Munich; and an attempted military coup in Turkey. The world, it seems, is aflame with hatred and violence, perpetrated by people hell-bent on walking us to the edge of the precipice.

Wise old monks living in the Middle Ages called it the 'wheel of fortune'. I know what you're thinking...Nicky Campbell and Bradley Walsh on a Saturday night with Carole Smiley! No, not this time! We seem to have lost something that these canny monks knew all too well. That as we work our way through life, we increasingly labour under the false illusion that everything gets better and more developed; that we evolve and move our lives, taking the world along with us. Yet when Omar Mateen walked into the Pulse nightclub and shot and killed 49 people and injured 53, he sent a ripple across the world that reminded us, on our most human level, that the world we live in remains just as barbaric and as vulnerable to acts of terror, extremism or cruelty as it's ever been.

All that early talk of whether Orlando was a gay hate crime or a terrorist attack kind of missed the point. Forty-nine innocent people lost their lives because one man decided they should and could. This is how it's always been. This is not new. That wheel of fortune has spun around again and with it history begins to repeat itself.

I watched the BBC Panorama documentary two weeks later, where those caught up in this tragedy told their stories. I cried through most of it, wondering how it is that man can be so cruel to man. It left a disturbing question. How can we ultimately change the hatred so embedded into the minds of the few? How do we protect ourselves from such violence, when the violence is targeted at us for simply being us?

Then came Brexit. I was in the car on my way to the city of Bath with friends, listening to the radio as the prime minister delivered his resignation speech outside Number 10. The hush, the drama, the feeling that the world was changing and we were living through a moment of history, created an atmosphere that was almost palpable. In that moment, I felt two things: shame and sadness. As a Remainer, and along with 48% of the voting population, I'd voted to stay. For me, my reasons were numerous, but one of my motivations was born from the need to protect the hard-fought gains of our community. Equality, secured in legislation underpinned by the Human Rights Act, ensured we were able to move forward as a gay community, whilst more broadly enshrining the basic values of what it is to be human. Where does this leave us now? With the bewildering task of unpicking legislation only to reform it in some form or other? Or worse still, not at all - or with changes that allow for tweaks that undermine its very foundations. This should be a cause for concern to all of us, whichever way we voted.

I feel like we're going through a divorce and that I am one amongst many of the bewildered children, bumbling around and wondering how it's come to all this and where it may finally take us. Some of you may think I'm being dramatic, that our rights are enshrined and no one would possibly take them away. Yet I challenge that. The recent Conservative leadership race proved that path is less than certain. Three of the five candidates had far-from-savoury voting records when it came to LGBTQ rights, especially Andrea Leadsom and Stephen Crabb. Both are motivated by their religious beliefs, which remain a safe legal footing on which to counter LGBTQ equalities. This creates opportunities to tinker with legislation which may now be reviewed as we withdraw from the EU, providing a platform from which to water down our hard-fought gains.

Former PM David Cameron publicly heralded his gay-marriage legislation as a cornerstone of his time in office, as if to make it difficult for his successors to use it as a future platform on which to campaign against it. Imagine if Leadsom or Crabb had got in. Would we be heading back to the Conservative policies of the 1980s? But we have, of course, already forgotten what this was like, and more importantly have fallen into a false sense of security in which we think that history only moves forward and never back. Yet we need to be savvy like those medieval monks and remember that the wheel of fortune can and once more will turn. We need to be prepared to defend our rights and remember that anything can be watered down or taken away.

Love, after all, is love, and we are duty-bound to defend it.

ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball

PrEP Talk

We have seen much heated debate about NHS England's decision not to continue funding PrEP, the pre-exposure prophylaxis used by people at very high risk of contracting HIV.

They say that it's not their responsibility to provide the drug and is instead the responsibility of (cash-strapped) local authorities to do so. In trials, PrEP has, when taken daily, proved to be 90% effective at preventing the transmission of the HIV virus.

My initial reaction was to support the NHS decision. PrEP is not a magic bullet. It will not prevent the spread of other sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia and hepatitis A and B. And its use can be seen to encourage a culture of barebacking and normalising unprotected sex. It's madness for healthy gay men to take potentially harmful HIV meds when condoms, which are much cheaper and have fewer side effects, will do the trick.

But the more I looked into it, the more I changed my mind. We don't all live in a world where all people do what they ought to do all of the time. Some people don't like using condoms, others do but get caught up in the heat of the moment. PrEP does work and does prevent lots of gay men from becoming infected. It also provides gay men with something straight women have had for decades - access to a daily (contraceptive) pill that allows them to have the unprotected sex many of them enjoy.

PrEP may not be for everyone - lots of us will continue to use and promote the use of condoms - but there is a group of gay men - including those with a HIV-plus partner - who clearly will benefit from it. Many lives could be saved and expensive treatment costs reduced.

NHS England should reconsider and provide PrEP to those with alternative views on maintaining their sexual health.

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